FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 FEBRUARY 1985

Egypt-Israel

Reacting to a call by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, in a *NEW YORK TIMES* interview, for Middle East negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation hosted by the United States or Egypt, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said Israel must subject Mubarak's proposal to a "positive and precise" examination, and he added that Israel accepts the idea of direct negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation provided it does not include PLO representatives, according to Jerusalem radio. Israeli political sources cited by the radio subsequently welcomed Mubarak's ideas as the "first practical proposals" by an Arab leader for direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors.

In a related development, Egyptian presidential adviser Usamah al-Baz denied reports that he would visit Israel for talks with Prime Minister Peres, Jerusalem radio disclosed. However, Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal was dispatched by Peres to Cairo for preliminary Middle East talks with President Mubarak, the radio noted.

Israel

An explosion wounded two people in Ashdod on 26 February and police think it was caused by a "terrorist" device, IDF radio reported.

Lebanon

Two car-bomb explosions in the Al-Shiyah district of southern Beirut killed 6 people and wounded 30 others, Beirut radio announced. The explosions followed clashes between Amal movement and Hizballah gunmen in southern Beirut, reported by Voice of Lebanon radio.

In southern Lebanon the IDF searched two more villages, arresting several suspected terrorists and demolishing a house where equipment was found, according to Israeli military sources cited by ITIM. Three "terrorists" were injured while trying to escape, the sources disclosed.

Iran

The Foreign Ministry presented the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires with a formal note, broadcast by Tehran Radio, protesting the imprisonment and "torture" by Kuwaiti security authorities of five Iranians living in Kuwait.

Afghanistan

The DRA Foreign Ministry, in a statement carried by BAKHTAR, accused Pakistan of sending troops across the border on 23 February for an attack on Barikowt garrison in which 9 Afghans were killed or wounded.

Pakistan

Following the completion of the 25 February National Assembly elections the Federal Cabinet was dissolved, Karachi radio reported. Ministers who had not participated in the elections were asked to remain in office until a new government is formed, the radio added. Incidents connected with the 25 February polling were reported in various areas including the death of two people in Sahiwal during a clash between rival groups, the radio acknowledged.

Al-Qadhdhafi Address to Black Americans

Libya is prepared to "train and arm" black Americans in their "struggle" to establish an independent state and army, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told the "Nation of Islam" conference in Chicago in a satellite-relayed address reported by Tripoli radio.

Sudan

"Several thousand" Equatoria citizens recently joined the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces, the clandestine SPLA radio reported.

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'Arafat Discusses Palestinian Revolution

PM250935 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 21 Feb 85 p 11

[PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat article: "Seven Keys To Overcoming the Arab Predicament"]

[Text] When the Palestinian revolution was launched on 1 January 1965, one of its ambitions was to become a unifying factor for all Arabs — a rallying point at which they would mobilize their resources to liberate the occupied Palestinian territory. Our hope was that the launching of our revolution would gradually heal an Arab body exhausted by disputes and divisions.

However, 20 years after that revolution this hope has not been achieved, despite the numerous awakenings the Arab homeland has witnessed, awakenings that were incomplete and did not last. That is the essence of the predicament from which the Arabs are now suffering. From my position in the Palestinian revolution I can see several vital keys to overcoming the Arab predicament:

First, halting the Iraq-Iran war. The PLO has exerted every effort possible in mediation to stop this war. I began my talks at Arab meetings and gatherings by stressing this objective, in order to underline its particular importance. It is time now for the Arabs to exert all efforts to reach a rapid solution to the conflict in the Gulf.

Second, Egypt's resumption of its natural role within the Arab body. The 17th PNC in Amman stressed the importance of Egyptian political developments. Prior to that we waged a battle leading to Egypt's return to the ICO despite the fact that we disagreed and still disagree on Camp David. We realized that Egypt's history and role cannot be curtailed in the Camp David agreement, whose real aim is to isolate Egypt from the Arab world. We are aware that President Husni Mubarak is making great efforts to frustrate this aim. What has been achieved in this direction includes the fact that the Egyptian Government allowed the Camp David question to be one of the issues in the Egyptian parliamentary elections in May 1984, whereas in the pre-Mubarak era the party rejecting Camp David was not allowed to be active. We must realize that the Egyptian people have rejected normalization with Israel with unshakable belief. We, the Palestinian people, have a great confidence in them and their ability at a certain moment to override Camp David, which the Israelis themselves are violating and using as a screen for their aggression. Proceeding from this premise, the Palestinian revolution will fight to bring Egypt back to its normal position in the body of the Arab nation: the Egypt of 7,000 years of civilization, Egypt with its manpower, Egypt the civilized power, Egypt the military power, and Egypt the Arabs must return to us and we to her.

Third, the adoption of a united stand by the countries of the Arab Maghreb would add to the strength of the general Arab situation. The Arab powers in Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco should come collectively to our assistance in the Arab east. The battle of destiny that the Arab people in the east are fighting because the Zionist entity has been planted in the heart of this area is the same battle the Maghreb people are fighting. However, the general role of the Arab Maghreb in the battle of destiny first necessitates ending disputes in that area and then crystalizing a unified stand by the Maghreb states that will asist their brothers in the Arab east. All the Arab countries must, of course, contribute to finding a radical solution to disputes in the Arab Maghreb, whether through bilateral mediations or through an Arab summit to be held after careful preparation under the slogan: "Comprehensive Arab Solidarity in the Arab East and Arab Maghreb."

Fourth, independent Palestinian decisionmaking within the framework of a comprehensive pan-Arab commitment. All the Arab countries must recognize the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of the Palestinian revolution, and, at the same time, it must be asserted that Palestinian national decisionmaking is linked to the pan-Arab dimension, because the liberation of Palestine depends on the struggle of the PLO and the Palestinian people side by side with the struggle of the Arab peoples. The Zionist danger threatens the entire Arab nation and is not confined to the colonialist occupation of Palestine alone. For this reason we are anxious to continue the efforts to achieve full Palestinian national unity, with an independent will and decisionmaking, that will be faithful to the objectives for which we have struggled, created our organization, and for the sake of which our martyrs have fallen.

Fifth, the conscious and calculated linking of armed struggle and political struggle against the Zionist occupation of Arab territories. The PLO's political moves are aimed at creating an international atmosphere conducive to the recognition of our inalienable national rights, primarilythe right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish an independent state. However, we are certain, on the basis of our experience and the international experience of national liberation movements, that such moves cannot possibly achieve their objectives without military pressure on Israel. This must be done through escalating military struggle in our occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and the mobilizing all Arab economic and military resources and capabilities in order to rectify the balance that is tilted in the favor of our enemy. Within this framework, the PLO's political struggle will continue to be an effective means to enhance world sympathy with our cause, sympathy that was evident in the recent special General Assembly session on the Palestinian problem during which Israel was isolated, with the United States and Canada its only companions.

Sixth, rectifying and not just restoring relations with Syria. There is a great difference between the two terms. We open our hearts, souls, and minds on the basis of one fundamental principle: We say 'yes' to the restoration of relations with Syria on the basis of independent Palestinian decisionmaking and noninterference in Palestinian internal affairs. The Palestinian problem is not a card in anybody's hand; it is the concern of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. For this reason the 17th PNC stressed the need to end tension in Palestinian-Syrian relations and to rise above the wounds, pain, and bitterness in order to rectify those ties on a clear and frank basis; this would ensure the freedom of national will and national decisionmaking on the basis of equality within the framework of pan-Arab commitment, free of interference in one another's international affairs and with a view to mobilizing all resources in the confron-

tation with the U.S.-Israeli alliance and its schemes in the Arab homeland.

Seventh, struggle to frustrate the sectarian plan to partition Lebanon, which is a threat to "Balkanize" the whole area. This threat does not stop at Lebanon's borders but goes beyond them to the Arab east and Arabian Gulf. Therefore, resisting this threat is a task that all Arab nationalist forces, and not the Lebanese nationalist forces alone, should jointly shoulder. These forces must coordinate their efforts to foil the sectarian plan in Lebanon and protect the area against the danger of "Balkanization," which has been one of the U.S.-Israeli objectives since the outbreak of civil war in Lebanon in 1975.

These keys are essential for overcoming the Arab predicament and preventing the imposition of the policy of separate peace, which experience has proved does not lead to any positive results. On the countrary, pursuing this kind of peace, which could be achieved only under the U.S. umbrella, would increase the Israeli danger threatening the Arab nation as a whole; there is no way of protecting against that danger except through Arab nationalist revival and reliance on the impact and movement of the Arab masses, which are absent from the arena. The vital nature of the question of democracy in the Arab world stems from this. Despite all the calamities the Palestinian revolution has faced, we have persistently insisted on preserving our democracy through the PLO melting pot and through adopting dialogue as a means of solving differences. Dialogue is the ideal way of solving Arab differences because, in the final analysis and in the present national struggle against imperialism and Zionism, those differences may be considered secondary and should not take precedence over the major conflict with imperialism and Zionism. Before the Palestinian-Israeli war in Beirut, I spoke about the dark tunnel and the "Balkanization" planned for the Arab area; I said that I could see Jerusalem at the end of the tunnel. For this reason I tell everybody that we have a date in Jerusalem and that succumbing to calamities is out of the question.

Palestinian Leaders Interviewed on PLO-Jordan Accord

Khalil Al-Wazir

JN230709 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1951 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad, by Raido Monte Carlo correspondent Nabil Darwish, from the "It Happened Tommorow" program; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Al-Wazir] First, everyone knows that the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship has been discussed in all our PNC sessions. Our people in Jordan, the occupied territory, and elsewhere know the strategic importance of this historical relationship. Whatever one may say, the relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian people is special. Throughout the past, we have discussed the developments of this relationship in order to reach a normal situation. This started in 1970, when we left Jordan. In our attempts, we have sought the mediation of all Arab leaders, beginning with President al-Asad and the late President Boumedienne, as well as other Arab leaders who have experienced this crisis. All this stemmed from our basic desire to attain a normal relationship in order to serve the Palestinian struggle, the Palestine question, and our Palestinian people. Also during this period, many of our brothers in the PLO Executive Committee and other Palestinian leaders took part in talks on the subject of this relationship and drew up agendas and draft agreements.

After Beirut and Tripoli, it was decided to deepen the relationship with Jordan. In view of the events experienced by the Palestinian revolution in the past, continuous talks were held to develop this relationship. In the political field, we discussed the principles on which this relationship would be based and also our vision of joint political action. Our decision was that we must move together on the Arab and international levels in accordance with certain basic principles and concepts. During the last PNC session, His Majesty King Husayn proposed the Jordanian initiative. The PNC's opinion was clear: Frist, we support the joint Palestinian-Jordanian political move; second, this joint Palestinian-Jordanian political move must not in any way be construed as a Palestinian-Jordanian axis against any Arab side. Our policy in the Palestinian revolution has always been that we are against the policy of axes in this nation. On the contrary, we, as a cause, want the solidarity of our entire Arab nation. When we took joint action with Syria, we also sought the solidarity of the Arab stand. We also said that the Syrian-Palestinian move was not an axis.

[Darwish] However, some Palestinian leaders and officials have expressed a different opinion. Dr George Habash, for instance, told us today that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement blew up a main principle of Palestinian struggle — that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Waht is your opnion on what he said?

[Al-Wazir] We have already made this point very clear. In this Palestinian-Jordanian agreement, which presents ideas and principles for action, there is no concession whatsoever on this principle. The PLO is the sole legitimate representative. Nobody asked to negotiate on our behalf, requested a mandate, or requested to share our representation of the PLO. The main decision and clause is that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative. This clause has been emphasized. There is no compromise on it whatsoever. However, the fears expressed by Brother Dr George and other Palestinian sides stem from lack of confidence. They know full well that at one time when the Palestinian leaderships felt that the principle of representation might be compromised, these very leaderships stood up and said "no" with a loud voice. Therefore, everyone stands by this conviction. Once again, we say that nobody has requested a mandate and we will not give this mandate. The PNC and all our contacts, meetings, and dialogues have confirmed this principle. Therefore, we emphasize that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative and, if it attends any meeting, it will be on an equal footing with the others and as an independent delegation. This central point has already been stressed more than once. So these fears are not justified.

[Darwsih] There is a call now to establish a national front to topple this agreement. How do you in Fatah view these attempts?

[Al-Wazir] Let us say that these attempts began when they carried out the dissident movement within Fatah. They continued these attempts when they carried out their military aggression against the Palestinian revolution forces in Tripoli with the support of our Syrian brothers — support that was illogical and unexpected. Therefore, the attempts and pressures to establish this front have been going on for some time. In fact, their disruption of the PNC was in order to establish this front. Their contacts with several Arab sides were also to form an alternative to the PLO. This has been their continuous endeavor. Our dialogues in Algiers and Aden discussed this very issue and fear. We used to tell our Brother Dr George: We believe these people are disrupting our work in order to create alternatives.

However, when the PNC met, their plans fizzled out. So, what they are trying now is to save what they can in order to establish this front. Dr George was once reluctant to join such a front, but he is adopting a different stand now. This is the new situation. We hope our brothers in the PFLP will seriously consider the consequences of their step on the Palestine question. We do not want them to realize their mistake when it is too late, as was often the case in the past. We are confident that our people everywhere are fully aware of what this new front means. They know it is designed to strike at the PLO and its leadership.

[Darwish] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has seized every occasion to express concern over the incidents that might take place in the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon or Beirut. Officials in the other Palestinian groups maintain that 'Arafat's attitude is no more than an attempt to distort their stands. What do you think? Is there a real danger?

[Al-Wa ' r] This has always been our feeling since Beirut. What happened in Sabra and Shatilla is a clear picture that reminds us of this fact. Syria and its agents are planning a relentless war against the PLO and any Palestinian fighter in Lebanon who backs Palestinian legitimacy. This is why Syria's agents have made several attempts against our brothers in Burj al-Barajinah, Sabra, Shatilla, and other camps. Our people faced these attempts heroically. They came out and cheered for legitimacy and the PLO. They declared that their real link is with their revolution, organization, cause, and people before anything else. This was the real answer.

Of course, our brothers in Syria did not like this. Therefore, they are trying to attain control by every means. Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] says that certain military units are being prepared and given different uniforms so they can infiltrate Palestinian camps in order to create problems and sedition, while our people in these camps are trying to live a normal life and concentrate on their cause and on healing the wounds they suffered during the Israeli occupation. Everyone knows that 'Ayn al-Hulwah was completely destroyed. This is the camp that fought heroically during the Israeli invasion. [Israeli commentator] Ze'ev Schiff wrote in the U.S. Armed Forces magazine that the Palestinian surprise was 'Ayn al-Hulwah, which checked the advance of Israeli military units toward Beirut as planned and thus disrupted Israeli plans. This camp, which was completely bulldozed, ought to tend to its wounds, rebuild itself, and live in peace and security after getting rid of the occupation. Yet, we find that they are trying to send groups to create sedition.

[Darwish] Who is trying to send these groups?

[Al-Wazir] The quarters trying to do this are well known. They are our Syrian brothers and certain Palestinian sides. Their objective is to establish a presence in the camps so that they can say that the camps represent them and not Palestinian legitimacy. However, our people's answer was direct when they came out cheering for their revolution, legitimacy, and leadership before anything else.

DFLP's Hawatimah

JN230719 Paris Raido Monte Carlo in Arabic 1929 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Nabil Darwish, from the "It Happened Tomorrow" program, date and place not specified — recorded]

[Text] [Hawatimah] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has maintained one language since the beginning of the PLO crisis. We have also maintained a unitary, realistic, revolutionary, and national stand throughout the crisis since 1983. We rejected every formula of polarization in the Palestinian arena and insisted on being affiliated with Palestinian national unity on the basis of the PLO's program calling for repatriation, self-determination, an independent state, and sole representation independent of any form of authorization, trusteeship, or containment.

Following the Amman PNC session, we in the DFLP believed that this was not the end and we could bypass the negative political and organizational results of the Amman session, which was a unilateral session of one color. For the sake of returning to national and PLO unity on the same bases contained in the PLO's program, the 16th PNC resolutions, and the Aden-Algiers agreement, we immediately called for a comprehensive Palestinian national dialogue among all parties without exception in accordance with these national bases and without preconditions that might obstruct a comprehensive national dialogue aimed at holding a unifying PNC session. We warned all sides trying to obstruct this process that the situation may further deteriorate.

The Amman agreement came. This agreement clearly indicates a retreat and concession from the PLO's program on self-determination and an independent state as a firm principle for any settlement or political solution to the Middle East crisis and the Palestine nationl question. It also clearly indicates that this question has become an internal Jordanian-Palestinian question to be solved by the Palestinians and Jordanians when they are able to do so. It has not been viewed as an integral part of any political solution to the Middle East crisis. The Amman agreement also clearly indicates a relinquishment of the PLO's sole, independent representation of our people.

[Darwish] In which paragraph?

[Hawatimah] Through Jordanian-Palestinian participation.

[Darwish] A Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in which the Palestinian delegation will be on equal footing, as was reported?

[Hawatimah] What?

[Darwish] It was said that there would be a Jordanian- Palestinian delegation in which the PLO will be represented on equal foooting. Where is the defect?

[Hawatimah] There is absolutely no clause in the agreement that says on equal footing. Regarding the independent representation, there is a text saying that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will participate in the negotiations. Thus, the sole representation of the PLO is conceded. This means a retreat from the Rabat and Fes summit resolutions. Therefore, the phrase "proceeding from the spirit of the Fes resolutions" was mentioned at the beginning of the agreement. This means that we have to evoke spirits and ask them what applies to the Fes resolutions and what does not. The international conference mentioned in the Amman agreement has absolutely nothing to do with the international conference that was approved by the PLO and the Fes summit resolutions. This agreement talks about an international conference at a certain stage of the negotiations.

[Darwish] The PLO Executive Committee's statement, which approved the agreement, answered your words. What is your opinion about that statement?

[Hawatimah] The PLO Executive Committee statement stems from a prevaricating, deceitful, and maneuvering policy aimed at local consumption in the face of the comprehensive rejection of the agreement by our people in the occupied territories and everywhere in the diaspora. They say no to the Amman agreement; this agreement should be abrogated.

The PLO Executive Committee adopted a prevaricating policy. It said that it understands various things, but concluded its statement by approving the agreement 'Arafat signed with King Husayn.

[Darwish] You do not want Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat to visit Cairo. For certain reasons he cannot visit some Arab capitals. You condemn him when he leaves for Jordan. Where can the PLO leadership go? Do you have a solution? Many Fatah members say that Aden and Algeria refused to host the PNC. Several other Arab countries expressed reservations. Where do you want the PLO leadership to go? This question is posed in the Palestinian arena.

[Hawatimah] This question is right and we must ponder it. Aden and Algeria did not refuse to host the PNC but asked for some time in order to exert additional efforts in hope of opening the door for a comrpehensive Palestinian dialogue and in hope of canceling the objections of certain Arab capitals. I remember well that a meeting took place on 3 November with second-in-command in Algeria, Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, in the presence of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], Hani al-Hasan, and YSP Political Bureau member 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir. During this meeting Messaadia addressed the Domocratic Alliance and the Fatah Central Committee by saying: You who signed the Aden-Algiers agreement agree among yourselves, and then you are welcome in Algeria.

[Darwish] Why did you turn down the offer although Fatah approved it?

[Hawatimah] We turned it down in order to have some time to pave the way for a successful PNC. However, our brothers in Fatah, particularly the Fatah right wing — under the pressure of certain Arab reactionary frameworks — rejected Mohamed Cherif Messaadia's offer, for which we have also struggled, and insisted on expediting the convocation of a PNC session in Amman. This is how matters unfolded. As for the Cairo visit, we did not object to it because it was paid to Cairo. 'Abd al-Nasir's Cairo is in our hearts and minds, and those of our people. We objected to the Cairo of Camp David and called for a close relationship with the Egyptian people's national and democratic froces in order to struggle jointly with the Egyptian people to abrogate the Damp David accords. We objected to visiting a Cairo that is chained by the Camp David accords.

[Darwish] I think the Egyptian national movement recommended 'Arafat's visit.

[Hawatimah] Following the visit, all the Egyptian democratic forces issued statements condemning the visit because the Palestinian people are a special case. If 'Arafat can undertake such a step, why does he object to any direct negotiations between the enemy state and any other Arab state on the same road leading to the generalization of Camp David?

[Darwish] The geography of the current Palestinian situation at a time when you in the DFLP are standing at a crossroads is as follows: The PFLP, according to Dr George Habash, calls for the establishment of a national front comprising all the forces that want to topple the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. In a statement to this program, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] also called for the formation of this front. Will you join this front? Or, if you do not join it, will there be attempts to unify the Marxist trends and subsequently form another Palestinian axis, since you are known for your harmony with the Palestinian Communist Party, for instance? What is your position now?

[Hawatimah] We will continue the policy adopted by the Democratic Alliance throughout the crisis. This policy is based on continuing struggle for the restoration of the PLO's unity on the basis of repatriation, self-determination, an independent state, and independent representation as called for by the Rabat and Fes summit resolutions., We will continue to consider this the central task facing us. For the sake of restoring PLO unity in accordance with thse bases that are approved by a national unanimity and in accordance with the Aden-Algiers agreement, the direct task proposed to restore this unity is that of abrogating the recent Amman agreement. In this regard, we will continue to adopt a unitary policy that refuses to join any of the Palestinian axes of dispute. We reject polarization in this or that direction and insist on continuing our national, unitary role; this proceeds from the realistic national and revolutionary policy that was adopted by the Democratic Alliance throughout the crisis.

[Darwish] There is then a difference between what you and Dr George Habash say?

[Hawatimah] This is no longer a secret. Our comrades in the PFLP call for a broad national front to cancel the agreement and topple the symbols of deviation, the deviationist policy, and other slogans. We in the Democratic Alliance believe that the task that is directly proposed is to cancel the agreement and open the road for the restoration of the PLO's unity based on the common denominators that received national unanimity. In this respect, any polarization will deal a deadly blow to the restoration of PLO unity. Such polarization will entrench Palestinian division. The PLO, which is legitimate on both the Arab and international levels, will be on one side and that polarization on the other. A new form of fighting will then begin in the Palestinian arena.

I would like to say that we in the DFLP have no plans to form any axis. We will continue struggle within the framework of the Democratic Alliance according to this national, unitary base. I would like to clearly say that we are against any attempt at polarization whether under the slogan of opposition and government, as Khalid al-Hasan says, or under the slogan of right and left. We are in a stage of national liberation that requires the unity of all people with all their national classes within the framework of the broadest national front in their modern history, that is, the PLO, which is one and united.

'Palestinian' Version of Accords With Jordan Outlined

GF221300 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 21 Feb 85 p 18

["Text" of Palestinian version of recent Jordanian-Palestinian Agreement obtained by *AL-QABAS* from "very reliable sources"]

[Text] In accordance with the resolutions of the Fes summit, on which there is Arab agreement; the UN resolutions on the Palestinian question, international legality, and the joint understanding to build a special relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people,

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO have agreed to march together toward the achievement of a just settlement of the Middle East question and to end the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, on the following bases and in accordance with the following principles:

1. Territory in return for peace. As stated in UN resolutions, including resolutions of the Security Council.

2. The right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. Within the framework of a Palestinian state that is part of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

3. Resolution of the Palestinian refugee problem in accordance with UN resolutions.

4. Resolution of all aspects of the Palestinian question.

5. Peace negotiations will be held on this basis under the canopy of an international conference attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and all parties to the conflict including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Jordanian-Palestinian participation will be on an equal footing and as part of a joint Arab delegation.

Attack on Israeli Bus Near Bethlehem Detailed

JN251828 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] In accordance with the revolution command's policy and in compliance with its decisions to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, the main arena of conflict, our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland continue escalating their operations against the personnel and vehicles of the Zionist occupation forces and their terrorist gangs, inflicting further losses in personnel and equipment on them. A Palestinian military spokesman stated that last night, a group of our revolutionaries attacked with incendiary bombs a Zionist bus carrying a number of Zionist settlers and soldiers while it was passing near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. The bus was burned, and a number of its occupants were seriously injured.

The enemy Zionist radio admitted the operation, but, as usual, denied its losses. The radio said that the Zionist forces besieged the area, waged a large-scale search campaign, and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of assisting in the resistance operation.

PLO Radio Describes Operations in S. Lebanon

JN251836 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Men of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces last night used machineguns and rockets to attack a military position of the militias of the so-called the army of southern Lebanon at the port of Tyre in occupied southern Lebanon. The attack killed or wounded a number of agent personnel.

The Zionist spokesman admitted the operation, and said that his forces and elements of the agent militias immediately launched a large-scale search and arrest campaign for the heroes of the joint forces, but the search was in vain. On the other hand, Zionist enemy sources today admitted that a Zionist soldier was killed last Saturday in what they described as an accident in Lebanon. The Zionist sources did not mention anything about the circumstances of the so-called accident.

Operational Details of Arabsat Described

GF230812 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Feb (WAKH) — The first Arab satellite (Arabsat) launched on February 8, has reached its ultimate orbit and its equipment are operating beyond all expectations, Dr 'Ali al-Mashat, the director-general of the Arab Satellite Organisa-

tion (ASO) said. On his arrival last night from New York Dr al-Mashat told SAUDI PRESS AGENCY (SPA) that Arabsat's solar system electrical output was 30 percent more that set target and consequently the satellite was expected to live 11 years instead of seven.

The commercial operation of Arabsat will begin after six weeks to boost telecommunications in the Arab world, Dr al-Mashat said. Arabsat will play significant role in increasing TV transmission and telephone calls and is considered a unique Arab project to be implemented in a record time, he added.

Kuwaiti Minister Predicts Dominant Role for OPEC

LD251434 Vienna OPECNA in English 1110 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Vienna, 25 Feb. 85 (OPECNA) — OPEC's dominant role in setting oil prices will be strengthened even further by the end of the decade, according to Kuwaiti Oil and Finance Minister 'Ali Khalifah al-Sabah.

In an interview, with OPECNA marking his country's national day celebrations today, the minister pointed out that by 1990, "the world will have to call on OPEC's oil to meet incremental demand."

He said Kuwait had always emphasized the need to maintain the unity and cohesion of OPEC by insisting that all decisions on oil prices should be taken under the organization's umbrella. Underlining the organization's continuing importance as a residual supplier, he declared: "It will be a grave mistake to think that OPEC's control on oil prices has ended."

Al-Sabah noted that OPEC would face challenges for some years to come, but it had already proved that it could be flexible in adapting to new market realities. He said the recent Geneva agreement on a new pricing structure "vividly demonstrated" how OPEC could face up to the challenges, considering that it "almost alone, shouldered the responsibility and burden of stabilizing the oil market."

The minister said Kuwait had been able to accomplish the major part of its initial economic development — which had grown by an average 15 percent a year over the past two decades — as a result of increases in oil revenues. "However, we must expect and accept lower growth rates in the future as the economy becomes more mature," he stressed. As government spending continued to rise, while oil revenues decelerated, there was a need to revise existing policies "whereby the Kuwaiti citizens and expatriate residents should shoulder an increasing responsibility to ensure rational use of national resources."

Al-Sabah stated that there were still a number of problems which needed to be overcome to stimulate the economy and maintain a reasonable growth rate in future. Long-term planning would be focused on inducing structural changes to diversify sources of income by shifting from oil to other areas, including finance, tradeable services and industry. He said although oil revenues still dominated the state's income, the increasing share of foreign investment income had taken on major importance. Domestic non-oil revenues, although contributing a modest 10 percent of budget income, had also recorded a significant 20 percent growth rate over the past decade.

On oil sector revenues, the minister said the success of the diversification strategy was highlighted in the shift from crude oil exports to more refined and processed product exports.

The strategic plan of the national oil company — the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) — was to carry 60 percent of its oil exports in its own fleet, the minister pointed out. The Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, a KPC subsidiary, had a modern fleet of 22 vessels carrying crude, products, LPG and LNG. "Currently all vessels are in full employment, and we anticipate that such high-level employment will continue for a long time to come."

Al-Sabah said as a result of the current 4.5 billion dollar refinery expansion program and the subsequent additional product availability, Kuwait intended to "move away" from crude carriers. To meet KPC's export requirements, the company's fleet of clean product carriers would be expanded with new and converted vessels.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives FRG, U.S., French Officials

GF241656 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Manama, 24 Feb (WAKH) — Amir of Bahrain H.H. Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received here this morning deputy premier of Bremen, West Germany. The audience was attended by Chairman of Bahraini Central Municipal Council Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah.

H.H. the amir also received here today the U.S. Naval Forces Commander in the Middle East Admiral John Adams who is currently on a visit to Bahrain.

H.H. Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah also received the former French ambassador to Bahrain and the region states. The French envoy had served in the area from 1967 to 1975.

Talks Begin With Ruler of Sharjah

GF251636 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Manama, 25 Feb (WAKH) — Talks began here today between H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah and member of the Supreme Council of the UAE and ruler of Sharjah Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi.

The talks are attended by Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah; Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defense Force Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah; Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah; Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah; Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Khalid Al Khalifah.

The meeting was also attended by the delegation accompanying Shaykh Sultan including Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad, commander of the Amiri Guard; Shaykh Saqr ibn Rashid al-Qasimi, director of the Social Services Department; Shaykh Sa'ud ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, director of the Finance Department; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, minister of state and director of the oil and minerals department; Shaykh Faysal ibn Khalid al-Qasimi, director of the Amiri Court; and Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Khalifah Muhammad al-Rumi.

Upon arrival Shaykh Sultan said that his visit to Bahrain comes within the framework of constant meetings among brothers in the Gulf to exchange views on matters of interest to the Gulf in particular and other Arab issues in general.

Tunisian Official on Trade, Relations

GF240832 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 24 Feb 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] Trade between Bahrain and Tunisia could increase once the Saudi causeway is opened, according to Tunisia's presidential adviser. Mr Habib Bourguiba jr., son of Tunisia's president, is in Bahrain with a delegation for Tunisian Week, which opens in Andalus Gardens tomorrow.

Mr Bourguiba said that road haulage could add a new dimension to the trade between the two countries, pointing out that Tunisia has much to offer -- as the 60 companies exhibiting during this week will demonstrate.

Yesterday Mr Bourguiba was received by HH the Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah. During the audience he conveyed a message from his father on strengthening bilateral relations and current developments in North Africa and the Arab world. During his visit, Mr Bourguiba will reiterate an invitation for the Crown Prince to visit Tunisia.

"Bahrain and Tunisia share a common approach and common goals," he said. "This visit has given the opportunity for Bahrain's prime minister and foreign minister to exchange views with us on some of the problems in the East and the West for the Arab world." Here for the first time in four years, Mr Bourguiba praised Bahrain's "moderate and steadfast approach" to development. He also paid tribute to some of the 113 Tunisians working in Bahrain, including teachers and sportsmen.

In Bahrain from Qatar, he goes on to Kuwait en route home, having carried messages to each of the rulers. Tomorrow HH the Prime minister is due to open a Tunisian week at Andalus Gardens.

Economist Reviews Foreign Debt of Arab Countries

GF250530 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 25 Feb 85 p 11

[Text] Bahrain: The outstanding foreign debt of 20 Arab countries stood at $105,000 million at the end of last year. Economist Henry 'Azzam says that this figure is close to $11,000 million more than at the end of 1983. He says the largest increase was recorded by Iraq, which is believed to have added $5.5 billion to its foreign debt, most of it in long term loans owed to Gulf states.

Mr 'Azzam, who is vice president of the United Gulf Bank in Bahrain, says the gross foreign debt of the Arab countries has increased by nearly 25 percent during the past three years. Only Algeria was able to achieve a drop in its overall debt between 1983 and 1984.

The economist says a number of Arab countries have foreign debt amounting to a high percentage of GDP -- 40 percent or more. In 1981 only four out of the 20 Arab countries had high debt/GDP ratios, while in 1983, ten had ratios above 45 percent.

He says a noticeable deterioration was also recorded in the other solvency indicator -- debt/exports and invisibles -- and in the liquidity indicator -- international reserves in months of import coverage. "It has been historically recorded that the incidence of debt rescheduling has been considerably higher for countries with debt/exports and invisibles ratios that exceeded 200 percent and whose international reserves did not provide for a minimum of one month import coverage," says Mr 'Azzam.

In 1984, six Arab countries had already exceeded these threshold levels indicating an increasingly difficult debt management problem -- they were Democratic Yemen, Morocco, Lebanon, Somalia, Mauritania and Sudan.

Low risk countries include the six GCC states and Algeria. Mr 'Azzam says only Bahrain and Oman among the GCC have some public debt outstanding. Their debt/GDP ratios, debt/export earnings ratios and debt service ratios are quite low. A large portion of Bahrain's estimated $480 million debt outstanding is long term.

KUWAIT

ARAB TIMES: Amir Accepts Cabinet Resignation

GF251208 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 24 Feb 85 pp 1, 5

[Text] Kuwait's cabinet resigned yesterday in the wake of Wednesday's National Assembly elections. HH the Amir accepted the resignation, but asked the cabinet to remain in office in a caretaker capacity until new ministers are appointed. Under the Constitution a new cabinet has to be appointed within two weeks of the resignation.

In his letter of resignation on behalf of the cabinet, HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah, said that over the past four years Kuwait had overcome the problems facing the region during a "turbulent period" and had preserved its democratic system and the rule of the law.

"Over the past four years, the world has witnessed many-sided conflicts in which attitudes and interests overlap and the effects of which extend to us. But we managed to surmount them peacefully, thanks to the Almighty and the cooperation between the executive and the legislative bodies," he said.

"Despite the difficult circumstances which prevailed throughout the life of the previous parliament, Kuwait managed to continue as an illuminating centre for freedom, justice and right, and to maintain its security and stability. We have also been able to continue our true democratic drive within the dicta[illegible] of the rule of law," the prime minister said.

The letter of resignation was drafted at a meeting of the cabinet yesterday morning, at which urgent business was also dealt with.

Ministers discussed the results of the National Assembly elections, in which 31 new members were elected, and congratulated the successful candidates. The cabinet also applauded the way in which the polls were conducted.

Shaykh Sa'd thanked the ministers for the way they had faced the challenges and difficult circumstances during their four years in office. The minister of state for cabinet affairs, on behalf of all ministers stressed their appreciation for the guidance of the amir and the "democratic spirit" shown by Shaykh Sa'd.

The new cabinet will have a maximum of 16 members and may include some National Assembly deputies. Cabinet members who are not deputies automatically become members of the assembly.

Local newspapers have called for a strong cabinet to face the new assembly and to win the confidence of both the assembly and the public. "First of all, the new government should work immediately to bolster confidence in the executive branch of the government which has been eroded by pressure groups and the lack of seriousness on the part of the civil service," the *AL-QABAS* said in an editorial. "What is required in these circumstances is a radical change in the decision-making process, and ministers who take part in laying down public policies to the exclusion of bureaucracy," it added.

The amir is due to open the new session of the assembly on March 9.

PNC Speaker Meets With Deputy Premier, Amir

LD241636 Kuwait KUNA in English 1302 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 24 (KUNA) -- Speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC) 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih left Kuwait Sunday [24 February] shortly after a meeting with Kuwait's Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Shaykh Sabah told KUNA the meeting centered on the developments of the Palestinian question "and all issues of interest to the brotherly Palestinian people." Shaykh Sabah said he was hopeful the Palestinians would achieve more stability to keep up their march toward their ultimate goal of recovering their homeland and establishing an independent state on their national soil.

Sa'ih, who began his visit here Friday, flew to Aden where he will take part in Arab parliamentary meeting later this week.

Early in the day, Sayih was received separately by HH the amir and HH the crown prince and prime minister.

OMAN

Trade Talks With Iraq Open in Muscat

GF241236 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1023 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Muscat, 24 Feb (WAKH) -- The meetings of the second session of the Omani-Iraqi joint committee for economic and technical cooperation began in Muscat today. The Omani side is headed by 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, minister of trade and industry, while the Iraqi side is headed by Mr Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister. The committee will discuss the means to develop trade exchange between the two countries, in addition to exchanging expertise in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, education, and sports.

The Iraqi minister of trade arrived in Muscat yesterday at the head of an official delegation to take part in the aforementioned meetings.

Talks Conclude 25 Feb

GF251536 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The third session of the Omani-Iraqi joint committee concluded at the Al-Ghubrah guest house today. The Omani side was headed by Colonel Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, minister of trade and industry; Sayf ibn Hamad al-Batashi, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and a number of officials at the Trade and Industry Ministry. The Iraqi side was headed by Hasan 'Ali al-'Amiri, Iraqi minister of trade, and the delegation accompanying him.

In a statement to a radio correspondent following the session, Minister of Trade and Industry Col Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali said that during the committee's meetings ways to develop trade and economic relations between the two countries were discussed.

He said that the committee reached a final formula with regard to the agreement of aviation and air transport between the two countries and added that the veterinary agreement between the two countries, which will be signed in the near future, was also discussed, in addition to other subjects pertaining to cooperation in agricultural, educational and youth sectors.

A final agreement was signed this morning at the Transport Ministry on the ordainment of air transport services between the Sultanate and the fraternal Iraqi Republic.

Following the signing of the agreement Salim Nasir Al Bu Sa'idi, minister of communications, and Hasan 'Ali al-'Amiri, Iraqi minister of trade, made statements in which they said that this agreement will effectively contribute to the interest of the two fraternal countries and will play a big role in the growth of cooperation and development of the private sector in the two countries to exchange goods and facilitate the transport operations and will have a direct, positive impact on the Gulf region.

Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, also received at his office today Hasan 'Ali al-'Amiri, Iraqi minister of trade. During the meeting bilateral relations and ways to enhance them and issues of mutual concern were discussed.

Deputy Prime Minister on PDRY, Mideast Peace

GF250907 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpt] His Highness Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Bu Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, stressed that the Sultanate is continuing its full support for all efforts to find a just and durable settlement of the Middle East issue.

In a statement to *'UMAN* newspaper published today, he said that experiences and developments proved the credibility of the astute policy, whose cornerstone was laid by His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, since this policy is for the good for the Arabs. He added that the Sultanate is doing all it can — through continuous meetings and deliberations with fraternal and friendly countries — to reinforce the Arab move at this stage and to bolster the efforts undertaken by numerous Arab sides. The efforts are aimed at reaching a solution that will enable the Arab nation to regain its occupied Arab territories and ensure the fraternal Palestinian people of their legitimate rights.

His highness pointed out that there is coordination between the Sultanate and the fraternal GCC countries with regard to holding the Arab summit, scheduled to be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He emphasized that the Sultanate will support the convocation of the summit when the majority of the Arab countries approve it and when the factors ensuring the success of the summit are evident.

Moreover, the Sultanate takes advantage of all possible opportunities to sincerely work in the direction of bringing closer together Arab views and cementing all efforts designed to enhance Arab solidarity.

Answering a question on the results of the meetings and contacts that take place between the Sultanate and the PDRY, his highness said: The governments of the two countries actually want to have positive relations on the bases accepted by both sides. He said: The meeting and the contacts between the two sides not only demonstrated their good intentions but also made some progress. He indicated that there is a serious and mutual desire to follow up this progress with the aim of developing relations between the countries.

Answering a question on development plans, he said: The Sultanate, with God's help, achieved great success in the planned goals of the second 5-year plan and in accomplishing new plans — which were to be finished in the third plan. It can be said that this plan actually began before the completion of the second plan by more than a year.

He also said that the government, under supreme instructions, is at present concerned with assessing the achievements so far completed, in addition to studying the necessary and important developmental and social projects, with emphasis on the development and completion of services in order to meet the vital needs of various parts of the Sultanate.

Moreover, attention is being given to rehabilitating and training the national working powers and encouraging the private sector to ensure its vital role in the fields of development, within the framework of the desire to achieve rapid and balanced development in various economic and social fields.

Concluding his statement, his highness answered a question on whether the law on owning property, that was approved by the Kuwait summit, is being implemented and whether there are obstacles impeding implementation.

His highness said: There are no obstacles impeding the implementation of the law on owning property, which was approved by the leaders of the GCC countries. This formula is on the way of implementation in accordance with certain restrictions that define the rights and commitments which must be met to ensure there are no conflicts or negative effects.

QATAR

Turkish Minister Meets With Amir, Counterpart

TA251515 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1503 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Doha, 25/2 (A.A.) — Minister for Labor and Social Security Mustafa Kalemli, who is in Qatar as the official guest of his counterpart, 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari, was received by the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani on Sunday. Minister Kalemli conveyed to the amir a message of friendship from President Evren.

The amir expressed his pleasure with the developing economic and political ties between the two countries and with having had the opportunity of meeting Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu in Qatar prior to his own visit to Turkey in March.

In negotiations during Kalemli's visit, the two labor ministers discussed possible joint projects of interest to both ministers. Minister Ansari declared they would welcome Turkish businessmen and workers in Qatar, adding that both governments must provide the necessary facilities for this purpose.

Kalemli proposed the joint construction of a hospital in Antaya and a hotel at Tozkoparan, Istanbul, as well as the training of Qatari personnel in selected fields in Turkey.

In further talks today, the two ministers will be discussing personnel training again, a subject which will be taken up in detail during the amir's visit to Turkey, and be incorporated in a cultural agreement to be signed.

SAUDI ARABIA

Jordanian Interior Minister Meets With Counterpart

LD251251 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1101 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Feb (SPA) — Saudi Interior Minister His Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz this morning conferred at his office with Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar, who is currently on a visit to the Kingdom.

The meeting was attended by Interior Ministry Under Secretary Dr Ibrahim al-'Awaj.

His Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz stated to SPA after the meeting that all matters pertaining to security issues between the two countries were discussed and he explained that viewpoints are identical on what has been discussed.

His highness said that Arab security cooperation in the framework of the meetings of the Arab ministers of interior were reviewed. He expressed his total satisfaction with security coordination between the Kingdom and Jordan and hopes that the security coordination between Arab countries will be at the same level.

Iraqi Envoy Delivers Message to Foreign Minister

LD251333 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1005 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Feb (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, has received a message from Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tariq 'Aziz.

Iraqi Ambassador 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin conveyed the message when he was received today by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the latter's office.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Rahman Mansur, under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for political affairs.

Delegation Leaves for Libyan Congress Session

LD251936 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] His Excellency the Minister of State and member of the Cabinet Dr Muhammad al-Milhim; Undersecretary of the Interior Ministry Dr Ibrahim al-Awaji; and Director General of the Foreign Ministry Branch in Jeddah and head of the Protocol Department Salim Sunbul today left for Tripoli, Libya, at the invitation of the fraternal Libyan Government to attend the meetings of the General People's Congress, which will be convened tomorrow in Tripoli.

UAE

Further Reportage on Visit of Turkey's Halefoglu

Meets With Defense Minister

GF251333 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Defense Minister Muhammad ibn Rashid received in his office today Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu and the delegation accompanying him, who are currently visiting the country. The audience was attended by Turkish Ambassador to the UAE Taner Baytok.

WAM learned that, during the audience, Muhammad ibn Rashid lauded the tangible developments in the relations between the UAE and Turkey, which can be attributed to the astute policy of His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Turkish President Kenan Evren.

He also lauded the positive role played by Turkey on the Islamic level with regard to settling the differences and reinforcing Islamic solidarity for the good of Islamic issues. In this context, he referred to the efforts by Turkey to end the Iraq-Iran war.

During the audience, the Turkish foreign minister stressed his country's desire to further exert their good offices to end this devastating war, particularly as his country has firm relations with the two sides.

Joint Committee Concludes Meetings

GF251700 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Feb (WAKH) — The joint UAE-Turkish economic committee concluded its meetings here today with an agreement to strengthen cooperation in the fields of trade exchange, investment and tourism.

A joint communique is expected tomorrow on the outcome of the meetings between the UAE delegation led by Muhammad Khalifah al-Yusuf, director of the economic department at the UAE Foreign Ministry and Yusuf Ozal, undersecretary for planning affairs, who is accompanying Turkish foreign minister Vahit Halefoglu on his four-day visit to the UAE. Al-Yusuf said the committee completed its discussions of reports and studies presented by various sub-committees covering prospects of cooperation in the economic and trade fields. He said the committee will hold its next meeting in Turkey in 1986.

Halefoglu and Ozal yesterday held a series of intensive talks with top government officials that covered political, economic and trade issues.

Ankara on News Conference

TA260611 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu has said that peace can be achieved in the Middle East only if the Palestinian people regain their rights of self-determination and establishing their own state.

Halefoglu, who is on an official visit to the UAE, held a news conference in Abu Dhabi this evening. He stressed that Israel must withdraw from all the occupied Arab lands, halt the establishment of Jewish settlements in those lands, and refrain from changing the demographic conditions in that area. The foreign minister stated that Turkey supports all efforts to put an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

Meanwhile, an identity of views has been reached on a protocol envisaging an enhancement of commercial, economic, investment and tourism cooperation between Turkey and the UAE. The protocol was concluded during the meetings in Abu Dhabi of the joint Turkey-UAE economic committee. It will be signed by Foreign Minister Halefoglu and UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah 'Ali al-Nu'aymi tomorrow. Halefoglu will then return to Turkey.

PDRY

Chairman Receives Saudi King's Message

GF241020 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, yesterday received Shaykh 'Ali ibn Musallam, personal envoy of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, who delivered a message from King Fahd on Arab and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister; and Yasin Ahmad Salih, director of the Department of the Arab Homeland at the Foreign Ministry.

Premier Receives Cable From PRC's Zhao Ziyang

GF241154 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 24 Feb 85

["Text" of cable received by Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, from Zhao Ziyang, premier of the PRC State Council, on the occasion of his appointment — date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of your election as chairman of the PDRY Council of Ministers, it pleases me, on behalf of the PRC Government and on my behalf, to express to you warmest greetings, wishing your country progress and welfare, and your people happiness and health.

DFLP's Hawatimah Concludes Visit to Aden

GF251530 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah left Aden today following a visit to the PDRY that lasted several days.

Prior to his departure, Brother Hawatimah made a statement to ANA in which he pointed out that during his visit he held comprehensive discussions with brother officials of the party leadership, particularly with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. He said that these discussions involved all the Middle East issues, including the current Palestinian situation.

Hawatimah described the Amman agreement as constituting a relinquishment of the Palestinian people's rights especially their rights to return, self-determination, and establishing their own independent state on their national territory. He added that it also constitutes a surrender of the PLO right of independent representation.

He emphasized that the Palestinian people's achievements of the last 20 years have been greatly jeopardized by the Amman agreement. He stressed that abrogation of the agreement is a way to restore PLO unity on the bases of its program, the PNC resolutions especially those of the 16th session, and the Aden-Algiers agreement.

Brother Hawatimah was seen off at the airport by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, and a number of Central Committee Secretariat officials.

Aden VOP: PNC Speaker, Delegation Arrive 24 Feb

GF251940 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] PNC Speaker His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih arrived in Aden yesterday leading a Palestinian delegation to attend the 15th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU]. The delegation includes Brother Abu al-'Adib, PNC deputy speaker and member of the Fatah Central Committee; Brother Abu al-Sa'id, chairman of the PNC Foreign Relations Committee and member of the Fatah Central Committee; and Brother Qusayy al-'Abadilah, PNC member.

Upon arrival, Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih made a statement in which he said: It pleases us to visit the PDRY on the occasion of the convocation of the APU which will gather ideologists of the Arab countries to exchange ideas and hold talks on sensitive issues, especially the central issue of the Arab and Islamic nations, namely, the Palestinian issue. They have gathered to discuss the obstacles impeding a correct and sound solution for this problem which will safeguard their identity and maintain their culture and existence.

Al-Sa'ih continued: Among these obstacles is the continuing Iraq-Iran war. Such great efforts should be spent in fighting the bigger enemy, Israel, and its supporters. We believe that the PDRY friendship extended to this conference carries long range and wide implications. It allows the APU participants to talk freely and express their feelings and those of their nation. We wish the conference success and hope that it will produce resolutions and recommendations that will fulfill the hopes of the Arab masses.

The Palestinian delegation was received by 'Ali Ahmad al-Salami, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the parliamentary section in the PDRY, and Brother 'Abbas Zaki, PLO representative in Aden and member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council.

Foreign Minister Receives Kuwaiti Message

GF231854 Aden ANA in Arabic 1725 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Aden, 23 Feb (ANA) — Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister, received a written message from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and information minister, on bilateral relations and the current developments in the Arab region. The message was delivered during Brother al-Dali's meeting today with the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Aden.

YAR

DFLP's Hawatimah Arrives For Talks 23 Feb

GF231319 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to our country lasting several days. During his visit he will meet with Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Brother Nayif Hawatimah stated that he will brief brother president on the latest developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, he said that his visit to Sanaa is within the framework of the continuous coordination between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. He said the Palestinian revolution is currently subjected to an aggressive and comprehensive Zionist attack aimed at liquidating the national Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, returning to their homeland, and for establishing their independent state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He said his visit is the result of the dangerous developments in the Middle East region, especially in the arena of the Palestinian national cause.

Brother Nayif Hawatimah said he will discuss with brother president the issue of the joint struggle for convening an international comprehensive conference to discuss the situation in the Middle East, with the participation of the PLO as a partner equal to the other parties [words indistinct] for the Palestinian and Arab national right.

He was received by Brother 'Abd al-Hamid al-Haddi, assistant to the secretary of the Standing Committee, and a representative from the Protocol Department of the Presidency.

Meets With Vice President

GF241650 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Judge 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, YAR vice president, speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly, and member of the Standing Committee, yesterday received Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

During the audience, they discussed the new developments on the Palestinian and Arab arenas. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Hamid al-Hajji, assistant secretary general of the Standing Committee.

Fatah Official Arrives To Brief President

GF240648 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Brother Saqr Abu Nizar, Fatah Revolutionary Council secretary, and envoy of Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], arrived in Sanaa yesterday on a visit to our country. He said that he will brief the president on recent developments on the Palestinian arena, particularly as the YAR and its leader are a basic support in the current circumstances during which the enemies of our Arab nation are challenging the Palestinian revolution.

Brother Abu Nizar said that the Palestinian revolution regards our country's leadership, government, and people as a means for bolstering the bonds of cohesion, trust, and love that are deepening daily.

He said that he will deliver a message to the president from his brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, on recent events on the Palestinian and Arab arenas.

President Receives DFLP's Hawatimah, Fatah Official
GF241840 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] who discussed with him the developments in the Palestinian issue and the struggle relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. Brother Nayif Hawatimah informed the brother leader president of the DFLP's view on the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement which was recently made in Amman.

During the meeting, the brother leader president affirmed the YAR's constant and basic stand on supporting the Palestinian revolution under the PLO's leadership, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He also emphasized the YAR's concern for the PLO's unity and the independence of the Palestinian resolution. Present at the meeting was Brother 'Abd al-Hamid al-Hajji, assistant to the Secretariat of the Standing Committee.

The brother leader president, secretary general of the General People's Congress, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, also received in his office today Brother Sakhr Abu Nizar, secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, who delivered a message from his brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, dealing with the latest developments on the Palestinian arena. He also informed the brother president of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, and the working paper presented by the PLO Executive Committee.

During the meeting, the brother president reaffirmed the YAR's constant and basic stand in supporting the Arab Palestinian people and consolidating the steadfastness of the Palestinian revolution under the leadership of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

On the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, the brother president said that the YAR supports any agreement which does not contravene the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences, particularly the resolutions of the Rabat and Fes Arab summit conferences.

Brother Muhammad Shahir, member of the Standing Committee, attended the meeting.

DFLP's Hawatimah Concludes Visit 24 Feb
GF241825 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], left Sanaa this afternoon following a visit to our country during which he met with Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress; and with Judge 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president, chairman of the People's Constituent Council and member of the Standing Committee. He was seen off at the airport by Brother 'Abd al-Hamid al-Hajji, assistant to the Secretariat of the Standing Committee; and by a representative from the presidential protocol.

At noon today Brother Nayif Hawatimah held a press conference that was attended by a number of local, Arab, and international reporters. He spoke about his meeting with the brother president and commander in chief, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and about recent developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas. He said that he briefed the brother president on these developments.

He also said: Brother President Colonel 'Ali has affirmed that the unity of the PLO is the greatest guarantee for securing the rights of the Palestinian people, and therefore we will exert all possible efforts in order to eliminate all obstacles standing in the way of the PLO. President 'Ali has also stressed the continuing joint struggle by the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

Brother Nayif Hawatimah said that the brother president leader and commander in chief has always worked for the Palestinian question and for preserving national unity and the unity of the PLO throughout the crisis of 1983 and 1984.

He also expressed confidence that the brother president leader and secretary general will continue these efforts in order to preserve the unity of the PLO. He said we will continue our dialogue with the brothers in the YAR on the basis of the joint determination by the Yemeni and Palestinian people to defend the Palestinian revolution and to struggle jointly against the Zionist invaders on the Lebanese soil and inside the occupied territories.

Brother Nayif Hawatimah expressed his appreciation for the stands of the YAR president, government and people and for their support for the Palestinian revolution and for the struggle of the Arab Palestinian people for self-determination, for regaining their legitimate rights, and for their right to return to their land and establish their independent state on their national soil.

At the conclusion of his statement, he said we in the Palestinian revolution are always anxious to consult and dialogue with our brothers in both parts of the homeland because we struggle in the same ditch against a mutual enemy for Palestinian and Arab rights.

He added that Yemeni blood ran side by side with the Palestinian blood and with the national Lebanese blood in defense of the Palestinian revolution and the chaste land of Lebanon, and in defense of the northern front of the Arab nation.

Fatah Official Concludes Visit to Sanaa

GF241940 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Brother Saqr Abu Nizar, secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, and envoy of Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, left Sanaa today following a brief visit to the YAR during which he delivered a message to the brother leader president, secretary general of the General People's Council, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother Yasir 'Arafat, dealing with the current Arab situation and developments on the Palestinian arena.

Mubarak Discusses PLO-Jordanian Agreement

NC252100 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today responded to questions posed by journalists and representatives from international news agencies, radio, and television about possible proposals for peace talks. The president said that Egypt has not prepared any definite proposals in this regard, but is discussing ideas for coordination between the PLO and Jordan in the form of a joint delegation. Such a step, President Mubarak said, should be encouraged so that negotiations for a Middle East solution could begin.

The president said that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement approves all the UN resolutions, which needs no further explanation. Asked specifically whether the agreement approves of Resolution 242, the president said: This is how I understand it.

When asked whether Egypt is calling for direct negotiations to be held between Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel in Washington or Cairo and, if such preliminary talks are successful, that they be followed by an international conference, the president said: The ongoing preparation is meant for a second round of talks. Direct negotiations are a must, and an international conference can only take place as the last stage.

When asked whether an Egyptian envoy went to Romania to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Mubarak replied: We have sent an envoy who met with Peres in Romania. Today I will send a second envoy to meet with him. The message sent with this envoy deals with current Middle East events, our future relations, and what we can do for the peace process.

Regarding a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to these talks, the president said: The PLO includes many figures from throughout the West Bank and Gaza. You know, Mubarak added, that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians. This is why the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will include some PLO members, because the PLO is not extremist; it is very moderate.

When asked about urging Israel to enter into direct preliminary talks, President Mubarak said: It is still too early to comment on this point. Let us move one step at a time. We do not want to jump to hasty conclusions.

Concerning the most significant points of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, the president said: All of its points are very significant. We may also say that the PLO's approval of the UN resolutions is a very satisfactory development and significant in terms of any future Middle East negotiations.

Mubarak Meets With Arab Lawyers Association

NC251405 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received a delegation from the Permanent Bureau of the Arab Lawyers Association at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah this morning. The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, and Ahmad al-Khawajah, chairman of the Arab Lawyers Association.

After the meeting, Al-Khawajah said that President Mubarak paid great attention to the Palestinian issue. This issue has the president's primary interest because it is the major topic in the Midde East.

He added that during the meeting, President Mubarak emphasized that freedom is not a means but an end toward attaining larger goals. He also emphasized that freedom is here to stay and so is democracy . The democracy we are enjoying assists the government in resolving the nation's problems.

Al-Khawajah said that his delegation and the president also discussed pan-Arab issues as well as topics of Arab soldiarity and freedom in the Arab world. He added that the president emphasized the need to achieve unity of Arab action in order to resolve Arab questions. The president underlined the freedom of the individual as well as the guarantee of the basic rights of every Arab citizen. He also stressed the fact that Arab action without Egypt lacks power. He affirmed that Egypt gains strength through Arab strength and that when this strength is combined, the Arab nation will be able to achieve its goals.

Faruq Abu 'Isa, secretary general of the Arab Lawyers Association, said that during today's meeting the lawyers emphasized their support for Mubarak's political position and his efforts to safeguard Egypt's economy. He said that the president pointed out that Egypt is an indivisible part of the Arab nation and it is at the forefront of defending Arab positions, foremost being the Palestinian issue in order to return the Palestinians to their homeland and their self-determination.

Jamal al-Surani, dean of the Palestinian lawyers expressed his views after meeting with President Mubarak. When asked whether they discussed the Palestinian issue as well as President Mubarak's full support for the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, Al-Surani said: The Palestinian issue is not an issue concerning only the Palestinian people or Egypt, but also of the entire Arab nation. The danger that threatens the Palestinian people also threatens the entire Arab nation. We have discovered the president to be true to his promise. All of Egypt supports this sacred issue in which the Arab nation's past and future are linked.

Al-Surani expressed, on behalf of the Palestinian people, his pleasure at meeting with President Mubarak. He said that he is looking forward to further measures guaranteeting Egypt's return to the Arab ranks so that Egypt can play a leading role in the attainment of salvation for us all. He added: With President Husni Mubarak's leadership and with Egypt's heroic people, who have offered sacrifices, we will continue along the road until we meet in Jerusalem.

Answering a question on whether he and President Mubarak discussed Israeli practices in the occupied territories and whether President Mubarak will discuss these practices during his forthcoming visit to Washington, Al-Surani said: President Mubarak's main preoccupation is the Palestinian issue, but he will not be discussing only this issue. The Israeli practices, which

hold the attention of President Mubarak, contravene the Geneva agreement and the international declaration on human rights.

Replying to a question on what the Arab lawyers, and the Palestinian lawyers in particular, want from the Arab nations at the decisive phase following the signing of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, Al-Surani said: The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement underlines principles that we have always advocated.

Al-Surani said: What we want from the Arab states is more solidarity and for the Arabs to overcome differences. We want all Arabs to work seriously together to end the Iraq-Iran war, which harms the entire Arab nation, not only Iraq.

Al-Surani emphasized that what the Arab Lawyers Association wants from the Arab states is for Egypt to assume its natural role of leading the Arab struggle. What I ask from the Arab states is that they help the heroic Lebanese people to resist the Israeli occupation. What I also ask from the Arab states is that they support the PLO in its struggle for the return of the Palestinians to their homeland and for their right to self-determination and the creation of their own independent state.

Information Minister Briefs Mubarak on Omani Visit

NC251809 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — After meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that he had conveyed a verbal message from Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to the president. Al-Sharif, who recently visited Muscat, added that the message dealt with the Arab situation, existing problems in the region, Egyptian moves regarding the Palestinian issue, developments in the Iraq-Iran war, the Lebanese problem and its developments, and all current issues concerning the Arab arena. The information minister also noted that Sultan Qabus will visit Egypt in April.

The information minister said that he had briefed President Mubarak on what was signed in Amman regarding informational cooperation, the Egyptian-Omani plan for information from radio, television, and the press, and the general authority for information.

The information minister also said that he had reviewed with President Mubarak various arrangements made through technical committees of the Radio and Television Association. This included representatives from all the parties concerned with the launching of an Egyptian satellite.

Safwat al-Sharif revealed that he had briefed the president on contacts with the French. They also discussed the goals of the team of Egyptian experts that will leave within a week to further research the feasibility of launching a satellite in cooperation with the French. As soon as the feasibility studies are prepared, Al-Sharif said, a higher committee will be established with representatives from the telecommunication center involved in preparing these studies.

Al-Sharif finally pointed out that his meeting with President Husni Mubarak was an occasion to review requests for interviews made by many European and U.S. radio and television networks. The president, Al-Sharif added, agreed to meet some of them. During the next 2 days, he will be meeting with AFP as well as other magazine and newspaper correspondents.

It is worth noting that Safwat al-Sharif paid a 5-day visit to Oman which began last Monday [18 February].

Third Conference of Nonaligned Journalists Held

'Abd Al-Majid Addresses Meeting

NC260944 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — Egypt reaffirms that its policy is based on the establishment of just and lasting peace in the world and on the achievement of stability, progress, and development in the region. Egypt acts as an Arab-African state, with its own ambitions and problems.

Egypt also affirms that these goals can be achieved through cooperation, both within the Nonaligned Movement and in the Arab world.

This was declared by Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid at the opening session of the third conference of journalists from nonaligned states.

Asked about Jordan's agreement with the Palestinians and current options, the foreign minister said that there is no contradiction, while adding that any effort by Europe, the nonaligned states or the Arab countries would be welcomed by Egypt.

The foreign minister said that the Jordanian-Palestinian initiative was a positive effort, laying the foundations for efforts to secure peace and establish future relations in the area. It is an important step, which Egypt supports. At the same time, we support the Fes resolutions, he added, but we seek practical and positive action that will achieve peace. This was the subject of my recent tour, and it will be the subject of President Mubarak's upcoming tour as well, he declared.

Asked about the Egyptian ambassador's return to Israel, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that Egypt's stand is clear, saying: We have strongly condemned Israel's invasion of Lebanon. I said that Israel would be the loser in this invasion. Massacres took place in Sabra and Shatila. We decided to recall our ambassador, and our conditions have not changed; they are: 1. Israel's total, not partial, withdrawal from Lebanon. This will only be complete when the Lebanese Government resumes full sovereignty throughout its territory. 2. Recognition that Tabah is Egyptian territory, from which Israel failed to withdraw in April 1982. We are demanding international arbitration on this subject. 3. The provision of impetus to the Palestinian issue. We had hoped that the new Israeli Government would seek to alleviate the sufferings of the citizens in the occupied territory and to search for a settlement, but the occupation and the citizens' suffering continue.

On President Husni Mubarak's upcoming visit to Washington, the Palestinian situation, and the Vienna talks between the Soviet Union and the United States dealing with the Middle East, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: We hope to see a unified Arab front, which supports Arab positions. We regret existing Arab differences. However, a positive stand now exists: the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which we support. As for the Vienna talks, we welcome these efforts. Our relations with the Soviet Union are normal. We have restored our ambassadors, and our relations are based on mutual respect.

Mubarak Sends Message

NC252143 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — In a message addressed to participants at the opening of the Third Conference of Nonaligned Journalists, delivered by Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education and scientific research, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak noted that the Nonaligned Movement has played an effective role in reducing international tension and containing crises within the nonaligned countries for 25 years.

The meeting of nonaligned journalists on Egypt's soil, Mubarak said, is a happy occasion for us and for the Nonaligned Movement. The Egyptian people and Government hold the Nonaligned Movement in great esteem. The journalist is a spokesman of his era; he interacts with the masses and envisages the future.

In his message to the conference, which began its 3-day session today, the president also said: The Egyptian people are glad that you are meeting among them today. The Egyptian journalist is performing his task under full guarantees. Egyptian journalism is perfectly free and prospering in a healthy atmosphere. Your conference is proof of the seriousness and vitality of the Nonaligned Movement, as well as of its growing role, the president said.

Here is the full text of Mubarak's message:

Members of the Third Conference of Nonaligned Journalists: Your meeting here in Cairo is an occasion of pride and joy for us. The Nonaligned Movement is held in special esteem by the Egyptian people and Government, ever since we had the honor of helping to found this great movement as a gathering for the Third World and a framework for alleviating international problems and bolstering world peace.

You would probably agree with me that, for a quarter of a century, the Nonaligned Movement has played an effective role in contemporary international politics, helped relieve world tension, and formulated constructive initiatives to deal with the crises involving developing nations.

By the nature of his work, the journalist has a sublime mission and a great responsibility. He is the voice of his nation, the pulse of his people, and the contemporary mouthpiece interacting with the masses' questions, expressing his compatriots' hopes, and reflecting the image of the future.

You, journalists from nonaligned states, shoulder a great deal of responsibility for formulating the public opinion of your peoples. You exercise a direct influence on the daily life of millions of people on the world's continents by virtue of your information and your cultural missions, especially in countries that for centuries suffered from subservience, confronted continuous challenges in their development, and established a new society upon the remains of a backward and heavy legacy.

The Egyptian people are pleased to have their capital used as a venue for your meeting. It has been used as a venue for the Nonaligned Movement several times since its first preparatory conference. The Egyptian people are even more pleased and proud that you are meeting on their land today when the Egyptian journalist carries out his work and performs his mission under full guarantees and when the Egyptian press is enjoying a great deal of freedom. National and party newspapers stand on a solid foundation, where a healthy climate is created that restricts no opinions or freedom of expression and that gives the right to express ideas and views to every citizen without discrimination.

Members of the nonaligned journalists conference, your conference, which represents an important tributary of the river of our Nonaligned Movement, is new evidence of the vitality of this movement and its prosperous role. There is no doubt that you do not disagree with me that you, as journalists of nonaligned states, are partial to your peoples' questions and to the broad hopes of the masses for a better life and brighter future for our people, who appreciate freedom of expression, commitment of opinion, and firm conscience.

Sierra Leonean President's Visit Continues

Talks With Mubarak

NC252012 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Sierra Leonean President Dr Siaka Stevens held private talks this morning at Al-Qubbah Palace. They were later joined by the Egyptian and Sierra Leonean delegations.

The Egyptian delegation is composed of Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid; Wajih Shindi, minister of tourism and civil aviation; 'Abd al-Salam 'Abd al-Ghaffar, minister of education; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and head of the Presidential Office for Foreign Affairs; Ibrahim 'Ali Mustafa, Egypt's ambassador to Sierra Leone; and Muhammad al-Khazindar, acting chief of the African desk at the Foreign Ministry.

The Sierra Leonean delegation is composed of Foreign Minister Dr Shaka Kanu; Dr Abubakar Kamara, minister of state for education; Olu William Harding, Sierra Leonean ambassador to Cairo; (Nicole), deputy under secretary for international organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and parliament member (Mulay Bay Kamara).

Afterward, Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the discussions dealt with the international situation and bilateral

relations. Regarding the international situation, the views between the two sides were identical. A joint communique will be issued tomorrow outlining the subjects discussed and the stands of the two states. Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the joint communique will also include a paragraph on Sierra Leone's support for the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which it regards as a step toward a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem and the Palestine question.

The discussions, Dr 'Abd al-Majid added, were constructive and very useful. They deeply reflect the relations between the two countries.

Regarding African questions, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that they were fully discussed and that this will be noted in the joint communique. Answering a question about Sierra Leone's demands, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that technical cooperation exists between the two countries. It pleased him to note that Sierra Leone praised the Egyptian expertise extended to it.

Asked whether an Egyptian envoy had met with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that he has no information about this. However, he added, I can say that I am in constant touch with the Israeli Government.

Answering another question on whether Egypt will return its ambassador to Tel Aviv following the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, 'Abd al-Majid said: We are satisfied with the Israeli withdrawal and we regard it as a constructive step. At the same time, however, we are very dissatisfied with the military operations in southern Lebanon and we regard these actions as complicating, not facilitating, the problem. Concerning the ambassador's return, we are committed to previously declared conditions.

Answering a question about Shim'on Peres' statement in Bucharest that Israel was prepared to accept the idea of an international conference with some guarantees, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: We consider the convening of an international conference to be a means for settling the problem and we believe that all parties must participate. Previously, we said that there might be some practical difficulties, but our principled stand is that we welcome any means to give momentum to the peace process in the area. Egypt's stance is very clear and unambiguous.

Leaves Cairo

NC260823 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Sierra Leonean President Siaka Stevens left Cairo this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During this visit Stevens held talks with President Mubarak on international issues in general and African questions in particular. The talks also touched upon strengthening relations between the two countries in various domains.

An official farewell was accorded the distinguished African guest at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbah during which President Mubarak and senior statesmen bade him farewell.

Israeli Energy Minister Arrives in Cairo 25 Feb

NC252103 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal arrived in Cairo tonight. He is on a visit to Egypt at the invitation of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil.

Pope Shanudah Views Religious, Political Issues

PM251245 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 22 Feb 85 p 30

[Unattributed interview with Coptic Pope Shanudah in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-HAWADITH*: Some people say that Pope Shanudah entered the monastery as a spiritual leader and left it as a spiritual and also political leader. What is your answer to that?

Pope Shanudah: Let me first ask what do the words politics and political leader mean to a pope? If the reference is to the emotional link between him and the people then that stems from his spiritual status. Generally speaking we do not interfere in politics, but we are interested in defending the interests of the people wherever they are and at all times.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you assess the Coptic Church's relations with the Egyptian state?

Pope Shanudah: The Coptic Church is in Egypt, abides by its laws, and is committed to its civil leadership and presidency. It is loyal to all that because the holy book urges us to respect and obey the rulers. Our relations with the state are generally good.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you feel annoyed about anything under the present regime?

Pope Shanudah: I personally do not feel annoyed in any particular sense. Anyway, spiritually speaking I do not recognize the word annoyance. I once said in one of my sermons that a vexation is real when your heart is not big enough to tolerate it, but if your heart is big enough to absorb outside trouble then such trouble does not bother you. You do not call it trouble because it does not bother you and does not deprive you of your weapon. We call it a problem but it is our duty as men of religion to maintain peace in our hearts in order to plant it in the hearts of others.

AL-HAWADITH: That means that there are particular problems. What is the nature of these problems?

Pope Shanudah: No society in the world is free from problems. The presence of such a society would turn earth into heaven. The problems generally are caused by individuals, not by the state or public opinion. We in Egypt enjoy good relations with the Muslims. If there are problems they are of an individual not a general nature.

AL-HAWADITH: Politically speaking the Christians seem to be afraid at present. They have no party of their own and have

not joined other parties in large numbers. Does this mean that they are not satisfied with what is happening in the Egyptian arena at present or are they expecting certain developments in the near future?

Pope Shanudah: I do not believe that the Christians are afraid at all. We give our spiritual affairs top priority and we serve our homeland to the degree that the circumstances allow us to do so. Some Christians have joined parties and are working in politics while other Christians concentrate on spiritual work, do not join parties, and are simply content with their patriotism, but you never feel lost as long as you exist deep in your own heart.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been said that Pope Shanudah is an undeclared pillar of the opposition.

Pope Shanudah: Try to verify and find evidence of everything you hear and everything said to you.

AL-HAWADITH: Does that mean that you are a loyalist?

Pope Shanudah: Are you talking about my heart or my practices?

AL-HAWADITH: About your heart, of course.

Pope Shanudah: The heart loves Egypt and every effort for Egypt. It loves the state and it loves freedom of opinion. It loves to see the opposition given the right to express its views and to see the regime given the means to do its duty and does not wish to see it misjudged. I love everyone in the country, including the rulers and the ruled, the supporters and the opposition. I have best wishes for all. I have faith in the sincerity of everyone despite the differences of opinion. Everyone has his own sincere way of looking at the country.

AL-HAWADITH: There is talk in the Egyptian People's Assembly about the possibility of applying the Islamic Shari'a in Egypt. What would be the Christian reaction to such a development?

Pope Shanudah: That would depend on the substance of these plans they are talking about and how they view the Christians. I cannot pass judgement before seeing the contents.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you view the Egyptian-Israeli peace?

Pope Shanudah: That is a political question. Please talk to me in my capacity as a man of religion.

AL-HAWADITH: It is actually a national question which concerns the men of relgion as well as everyone else.

Pope Shanudah: Despite that, the question is debatable because regardless of whatever is said about peace with Israel there are fundamental differences over Tabah, some of the provisions fo the peace agreement, Israel's attitude in southern Lebanon, political representation between Egypt and Israel, and so on.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Denounces Israelis in S. Lebanon

NC270604 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA) — *AL-JUMHURIYAH* strongly denounces the savage attacks that Israeli forces are waging daily against the villages in southern Lebanon and says that all these actions cannot reflect policies that seek the establishment and consolidation of peace.

In a commentary in its Tuesday edition, the paper says that while the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement concerning a move toward a peaceful settlement of the Palestine question is evidence of the Arabs' earnest desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace, Israel persists in daily giving new proof of pursuing terrorist, aggressive, and oppressive policies that openly contradict requirements for peace.

The paper stresses that whatever the Israeli officials' justifications were in defending these actions by saying that they sought to protect soldiers and prevent Lebanese resistance operations against them, such justifications are rejected because they are not based on sound logic. The only action that will ensure the protection of Israeli soldiers is to withdraw from the territory that they occupy by force and return home.

The paper says that the weapons with which Israel attacks civilians in southern Lebanese villages were obtained from the United States under the pretext of ensuring Israel's security. However, using these weapons to strike against civilians and to blow up their homes is incompatible with the purpose by which Washington justified arms shipments to Israel.

The paper demands Washington not to be content with expressing regret for the events in southern Lebanon, because had it not been for U.S. aid to Israel, the Israeli policy would not be in a position to be so contentious in the region.

Armed Forces Issue Communique No 1,753
JN251713 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Communique No 1,753 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 25 February 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continue their effective combat activities in the operational sectors. The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. The heroic cavaliers of the helicopter gunships carried out air raids against enemy positions and equipment in the central and Maysan sectors and managed to attack and destroy enemy troops preparing for an ambush, several enemy positions, and various equipment, and to inflict losses in personnel before they returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. With relentless determination, our brave artillery units continued to deliver concentrated strikes against the enemy positions and troop concentrations in the central sector of the operational theater, killing seven, wounding others, and destroying three infantry positions and one observation post.

3. Using artillery and mortars, our forward units engaged enemy weapon emplacements, troop concentrations, and positions in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicting losses in men and equipment. They destroyed four infantry positions, one vehicle, and one observation post, and killed two of the enemy personnel.

4. Our artillery units in the Maysan sector directed their fire at four of the enemy's artillery emplacements and silenced them.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 February 1985

Defense Minister Assails Iranian Policy
JN251107 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1043 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) — Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, has stated that the Iranian regime, which has been waging its war on Iraq for 5 years, will meet with a destructive end. Speaking to a group of martyrs' families today, Khayrallah added that the Iraqis will scatter the bodies of Iranian soldiers all over the battlefield, leaving them as food for the birds. He noted that the Iranian regime is waging its aggression on Iraq in order to implement the plan of its creators who replaced the Shah's regime.

The defense minister pointed out that Iran unilaterally violates agreements with the aim of expanding at the expense of the neighboring Arab states, particularly Iraq. He said that this has been taking place throughout history. He referred to the imperialist-Zionst plots that are being implemented through an unholy alliance with some Arabs led by Hafiz al-Asad's regime with the aim of weakening Iraq's revolutionary march and hampering its progress in all fields.

He affirmed Iraq's concern about the martyrs' families and the need for periodic meetings in order to learn about their needs and to offer them services.

Commentary Links Khomeyni With Zionism
GF251810 Baghdad Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Unattributed commentary: "Zionism and Khomeyniism Are Two Sides of the Same Coin"]

[Text] Zionism and Khomeyniism are two sides of the same coin. Zionism gives priority to aggression against the Arab Ummah [nation] and Khomeyniism commits aggression in the eastern portions of the Arab world — that is in Iraq.

You brave sons of Iran, when you stood against the oppressive royal regime, if you had taken power in your hands, you would have provided backing and support for the Arab Ummah and all Muslims in their struggle against Zionism and the shah who was destroying the country. However, the imperialists and world Free Masons had Khomeyni in reserve in order to neutralize the power of the Islamic society. They brought him out and defeated your revolution.

O Iranian people, it is not important what the self-selling clerics say or what they plan to do. It is important that you alone ask what Khomeyni has done for you. What objective of your revolution has been achieved? In agriculture, or industry, the economy or in politics, education, or training, in what area has this group achieved anything useful?

On the contrary, due to their ignorance and foolishness, they have destroyed what the former regime built by waging an unwanted war. Since 4 September 1980 they have been waging a self-destructive war against Iraq. As a result, your loved ones have ben destroyed in this hell. You, the sons of Iran, can understand and feel this more than anyone else. The calamity affects you and it is a burden on your shoulders. You well know that from that very first day of Khomeyni's return the clerics in their grand-eloquent speeches attacked Iraq and started the slogan of exporting the revolution.

Finally on 4 September they began their vast attack on our compatriots, killing our children and old men. This all was a planned action aimed at subjugating Iraq through superior force so that their [word indistinct] Zionism could achieve its aims.

Also, it was done so that Iran could never be able to join the struggle in defense of the rights of the Palestinians and the defense of Palestine, Jerusalem, and the holy shrines. This is what Israel wanted.

But, O you knowing Iranians, Khomeyni — this experienced, longtime member of the Free Masons — with Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other cronies, has been executing imperialist plans as the opportunities present themselves. A clear proof of Khomeyni's cooperation with the imperialists is what you see happening in Iran. You can see what Iran has come to. Who has brought it to the brink.

The imperialists gained control of Khomeyni and advised him that he could easily capture Iraq and establish his emperorship. They encouraged Khomeyni to wage war against Iraq until he made a blind, hasty move that has kept him entrapped to this day. He did not consider that unchecked Zionism is devouring the land and is shouting in defiance. And that people like Al-Asad of Syria have also joined forces with Khomeyni [sentence as heard].

You, the Iranian people, should after 6 years of misery have enough sense to sift chaff from grain. You should be realistic today and view Khomeyni's rule with a critical eye and know what he has in mind for Iran. You should not entertain any doubts regarding the deliberate actions of Khomeyni and you should judge his actions correctly. If you do this, you will find that Zionism and Khomeyniism are both faces of the same counterfiet coin.

Interior Minister Leaves for GDR 25 Feb

JN251104 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) — Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud, RCC member and minister of interior, left for Berlin today at the head of a delegation on a state visit to the GDR. The Iraqi minister told INA that the visit is meant to enhance bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation.

King Husayn Interviewed on Mideast Peace Prospects

AU261053 Vienna Television Service in German 1830 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Interview with King Husayn of Jordan by Austrian TV reporter Hans Benedict "during his current winter vacation in Zuers am Arlberg"; date not given — recorded in English with German translation superimposed]

[Text][Husayn] One of the positive developments is that Jordanians and Palestinians are now jointly saying: We are ready for negotiations, under the supervision of the five permanent UN World Security Council members, on a comprehensive peace, peaceful solution.

[Benedict] If there were to be a step-by-step release of Israeli-occupied territory, as provided for by an old plan of the Israeli Labor Party, would that also mean a step-by-step peace process?

[Husayn] As soon as the territories are given back, the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinians will take effect. Like the Jordanians, they will decide on the plan of a confederation with Jordan. We are not talking in public about any details at this time I think details have to be worked out later, but the idea of a confederation is firmly anchored with us already. The agreement between Jordan and the PLO is very clear, both regarding the approach to, and the aims of, the envisaged peace solution. It is also very clear regarding the acceptance of all UN and Security Council resolutions.

[Benedict] Will PLO chief, Yasir 'Arafat at all be able to carry this through with you together? After all, he is in control of merely part of the PLO after the internal PLO power struggle.

[Husayn] If 'Arafat's PLO leadership has brought itself to concluding this agreement with us, and has taken this bold step, which ambodies the hopes and aims of the Palestinians, then he is obviously very strong. There is a possibility now to embark on the right road at long last. But at the same time if we miss this opportunity, if again nothing is done in the coming months to set the peace process in motion, then, I believe that the chance might be lost for all times to come. The disaster that would follow then might affect our whole region and perhaps the whole world. What do the Israelis actually want? Are they seeking to subjugate another people, to turn another people into second-rate citizens in a region that they control? Is that the purpose of Israel's existence? Or do they want peace and honor, for themselves as well as for others? The time has come for the acid test, for all of us. I hope that we Arabs will do our best to contribute to this, and I hope that the other side will do the same — and then, we shall have peace.

Husayn Rejects Possiblity of Jerusalem Visit

JN252049 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] His majesty the king has voiced absolute rejection of a visit by him to occupied Jerusalem under the present circumstances. Speaking in an interview with a United States television network, his majesty said Jordanians and Palestinians had at last reached a point at which they both stand ready to contribute to the establishment of a just and permanent peace in the region.

[Begin recording] [Husayn] [begins in mid-sentence] ... for a number of years considered Jordan an occupying part and then the West Bank. Indeed, that was its attitude immediately after 1967. After 1974 the Rabat summit changed the situation. It was looking to Jordan as a negotiating partner rather than the Palestinians. Well, we have finally come to the point where Palestinians and Jordanians are together saying: Here we are, we are ready to enter a process for the establishment of a just and durable peace in the area. So, I hope that Prime Minister Peres is aware of that as well.

[Unidentified interviewer] Do you accept his invitation?

[King Husayn] If you refer to his invitation to visit Jerusalem, I think he also is aware of the fact that this is impossible for me, personally, for many reasons. Jerusalem has a very special place in my heart, and as probably the last Arab and Muslim ruler to have had the responsibility of securing the rights of Muslims and Christians of Arabs in the Holy City lost in June of 1967 when war was waged by Israel on the Arabs and under Egyptian command. Jerusalem is also the burial city of my great-grandfather who fought for Palestinian rights and had the honor to lead the great Arab revolt . So after a history of well over a 1,000 years, I am not about to be the first under any circumstance to legitimize Israeli annexation of Jerusalem by going there. [end recording]

AL-DUSTUR Views President Reagan's Mideast Plan

JN230934 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Feb 85 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Old U.S. Ideas Are Still Old"]

[Text] During his second news conference yesterday in his second term in the White House, and amid extensive diplomatic contacts to reactivate the peace process in the Middle East, U.S. President Reagan recalled the pale picture of his country's policy in the region and affirmed the continuation of that U.S. course that is known for its traditional hesitation and lack of political insight.

At the beginning of his second term, President Reagan, whose country's policies have deepened the historical complications in the Middle East crisis and whose country's bias toward Israel has pushed the region away from peace, only repeated the previous U.S. stands toward efforts to find a way out of the crisis. These U.S. stands are identical to the Israeli viewpoint. It seems, in fact, as if these stands are adopted by the Israeli Government itself.

When the U.S. President rejects the idea of holding an international conference on the conflict in the Middle East, and asserts on every occasion his country's opposition to an idea that is receiving increasing support from the world's countries, he bases this stand on a policy that serves Israel's aggressive and expansionist interests rather than his country's large interests in this part of the world.

When President Reagan calls on the Arabs to hold direct negotiations with Israel, which occupies their territory, continues to

bring settlers to it, and disavows the Palestinian people's most elementary legitimate rights, such a political proposal cannot be in harmony with U.S. responsibility toward the dispute in the Middle East; this can only be considered as a direct call on Israel to stick to its policies, which reject all initiatives aimed at achieving a just and permanent peace in the region.

Although such a U.S. stand, which President Reagan reiterated yesterday, was no surprise to the Arabs, it should make the Arabs review their current stands and policies in order to make the United States take their interests into consideration. The Arabs should adopt a unified and effective stand and a pan-Arab policy that is coordinated on all levels of conflict and confrontation with Israel.

AL-RA'Y Views Prospects for PLO-Jordanian Accord

JN240936 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Feb 85 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The Move Is a Beginning but the Cause will not Be Crucified at Any Door"]

[Text] In light of the approved official text of the agreement on joint Arab action signed between the PLO and Jordan, which was announced by the acting information minister yesterday, and in light of the explanations and replies he gave to questions, it is clear that the agreement opens the door for a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian issue. At the same time, however, it does not pledge that the cause will be cruficifed at this door, nor does it pledge that Jordan and the [Palestine Liberation] organization will avoid other doors if this does not lead to a just settlement. Thus, the great importance of this step and the value of this precious opportunity, represented in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, become obvious.

Undoubtedly, this importance and value impose a special responsibility on the United States in light of its strategic alliance with Israel. This is only true if the U.S. Administration is really eager to ensure that the parties involved adhere to a peaceful pursuit of a just solution that achieves stability in the region. This means that a great deal of what we demand of this administration, whether regarding a revision of its measures and policies on the issues or the establishment of objective circumstances to help find a just settlement based on the principle of exchanging land for peace, has always been linked to good intensions and is in fact within the means available to the U.S. Administration.

On the other hand, the value and importance of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement should prompt the USSR to openly support it. Merely refraining from opposing the agreement is a preliminary step that must be followed by overt support for the agreement, particularly since the agreement does not mean moving toward the West or ignoring the Soviet role. It is a move toward peace that proposes adherence to a positive role by the major countries in the Security Council along with the parties involved through the international conference that the agreement proposes as the arena for negotiations.

We are dutybound to affirm that Arab support for the Jordanian-Palestinian move is a pan-Arab task because it is a move toward peace, not capitulation, and toward regaining the usurped Palestinian rights. Moreover, it is not the last Arab card. Thus, building intrinsic Arab strength based on real Arab solidarity continues to be an unrgent necessity. Arab strength behind this move is among the main factors that can encourage the U.S. Administration to reassess its measures and policies on the issue. Moreover, it is an indispensable factor in forcing the Israeli aggressors to revise their calculations and abandon the repeated rejections with which they customarily abort all peace efforts in the region.

The Jordanian-Palestinian move is an example of the good intentions that Jordan and the PLO have always used to express their desire to achieve a just, peaceful solution to the issue. It is wrong and dangerous for Israeli vanity to regard this move as the end of the road. This move is a beginning. The usurped rights must be regained and the issue will never be crucified at any door.

Editorial Views Soviet Stand on Jordanian-PLO Accord

JN250817 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Feb 85 p 1

[Editorial: "The Soviet Stand on the Jordanian-Palestinian Agreement"]

[Text] We can only explain the semi-official [Soviet] reservations on the official Jordanian agreement as published in *PRAVDA* as fear that, through this agreement, special attention will be focused on the U.S. policy in the Middle East. Although, nobody can deny the importance of the U.S. stand or U.S. influence on the Israeli stand, the agreement is based on basic principles, including large international participation through the UN and Security Council resolutions and through the international peace conference in which the USSR plays an important and prominent role equivalent to the U.S. role and influence in the region.

The agreement includes the basic factors providing solid ground for the participation of the Palestinians in determining their fate and regaining their rights. The USSR has always defended these principles in international circles. The agreement shows a Jordanian-Palestinian joint will; the USSR's participation is one of the basic guarantees that confirm and achieve this will within the framework of a comprehensive peace based on exchanging territory for peace. The agreement is an obvious attempt to move the decision of political settlement outside the framework of U.S. hegemony and the political principles of the U.S. Israeli policies which have become obstacles to peace.

The content of the agreement asserts the special importance of the Soviet role in any future plan or move toward peace. This matter is faced with strong Israeli and U.S. rejection. We believe that the USSR will employ its efforts in the service of peace to mitigate U.S. hegemony and bias toward Israel in the Middle East crisis. Jordan, the PLO, and the majority supporting the agreement should move toward the USSR to explain the objectives of the agreement and the role that the Arabs expect the USSR to play in the peace process. This alone will be able to remove the doubts cast by some parties toward the agreement.

Casualties Reported in Two West Beirut Explosions

NC251649 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] A security source has disclosed that at 1750 two explosions occurred in Hayy Madi [in West Beirut]. The first took place at a site opposite the Jabr Laboratory and the second near the Al-'Izariyah building. Preliminary information indicates that 15 people were wounded. We will keep you posted on the latest developments.

6 Dead, 30 Wounded

NC251913 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Security reports this evening indicate that the explosion of two booby-trapped cars on Mu'awwad Street in Al-Shiyah left 6 people dead and 30 others wounded.

VOL Reports Army-Palestinian Clashes in Beirut

NC251544 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Clashes between Amal and Hezbollah gunmen again erupted in Bi'r al-'Abd at 1630. Other clashes broke out between the Lebanese Army and Palestinian gunmen on the airport road. Meanwhile, Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb came under sniper fire.

Security quarters have just said that a Lebanese Army patrol heard intensive bursts of gunfire on the Burj al-Barajinah-Airport road. When the patrol arrived at the scene, gunfire was directed at it and its personnel were compelled to return the fire. There have been no further details due to a continuation of clashes on the airport road.

Guarded calm prevails in the areas of Burj Abu Haydar, Al-Shiyah, and al-Tayyunah following the clashes between Amal and Hezbollah gunmen this morning. Representatives of the two organizations met in Burj al-Murr to patch up differences and eliminate the tension. Another meeting was held between Amal officials and representatives of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut in a bid to contain the clashes.

The Lebanese Army has reopened the port road following its closure by gunmen this morning.

Resistance Directs Rocket Attack on Israeli Position

NC251951 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] At 1600 today, Lebanese national resistance fighters attacked an Israeli position near the al-Qasimiyah bridge with rockets, scoring direct hits and inflicting losses in life upon enemy personnel.

Fresh Israeli troops were called in 15 minutes after the attack. However, the resistance again attacked the position with 10 rockets. A number of enemy personnel were killed or wounded and were seen being removed from the scene by a helicopter.

Security Council Meeting on Israel Sought

NC251219 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1150 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Following discussions between Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, director of the Foreign Ministry's Political Affairs Department, the prime minister has instructed Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, head of Lebanon's permanent delegation to the United Nations, to request that the UN Security Council meet to discuss Lebanon's complaint about Israel's arbitrary measures against the citizens of the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya.

Responsible quarters at the Foreign Ministry are preparing the substance of the complaint, prior to discussing it with Prime Minister Karami and sending it to the Lebanese UN delegation.

Israeli Mosad Financing Mercenaries for Phalangists

NC231912 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign diplomatic information confirms that the Israeli intelligence department, Mosad, is backing departments belonging to the Phalangist forces and their offices in Europe in their efforts to obtain mercenaries who will be financed and supplied with weapons by Israel. However, the Phalangist forces will pay part of the expenses. The information added that 98 mercenaries have arrived from India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

Caracas Embassy Accused of 'Phalangist Propaganda'

NC231002 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The Voice of the Mountain has obtained this piece of information from Venezuela: The Lebanese Embassy there is being used for Phalangist propaganda purposes by a group calling itself the Phalangist 14 September Movement. This group is spreading anti-Syrian propaganda and distributing publications that attack the Arabs in general, the Syrians in particular, and the Lebanese progressive parties as well.

Members of this movement, which is led by Elie Daww, the Phalangist official in Venezuela, are holding continuous meetings in coordination with the embassy and its staff. They are distributing badges, which show the Star of David flanked by the cedar and the cross, among the Lebanese. They are also turning out a daily pamphlet calling for the establishment of a pro-Israeli Christian state in Lebanon.

The Lebanese Embassy in Venezuela is also complicating the affairs of non-Phalangist Lebanese, while spreading Phalangist propaganda and collecting donations for the Phalangists and their agents during parties hosted in various Venezuelan cities.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's Mufti, Delegation

JN251411 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Republic of Lebanon, and his delegation at 1430 today. The delegation consists of Shaykh Dr Subhi Salih, Dr Husayn al-Quwwatli, Salih Salam, Muhammad Amin al-Da'uq, Muhi al-Din al-Qaysi, Muhammad al-Samman, and 'Ammar Khalid.

Shaykh Hasan Khalid congratulated the president on his reelection to a third constitutional term. He said that the Lebanese people pin great hopes on the president and his wise leadership. They feel optimistic over the matchless unanimity by which the president was reelected and view this as a consecration of the line that has supported and is supporting Lebanon in its struggle to liberate its territories from the Israeli occupation, achieve national accord, and provide security for the citizens.

The president thanked Shaykh Hasan Khalid and the delegation members and asked them to convey his thanks and greetings to the fraternal Lebanese people. He confirmed to them that Syria adheres to its firm principled decision to support Lebanon and to extend all possible assistance to it. He added that Syria considers doing this a fraternal duty.

Khaddam Receives Delegation

JN251842 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Republic of Lebanon, and his delegation at 1845 today. Talks revolved around the situation in the Lebanese arena, the struggle of the fraternal Lebanese people to liberate their territories from the Israeli invaders, and continuing the march toward national accord and security.

Cabinet Condemns Husayn-'Arafat Agreement

JN251159 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Damascus — The Cabinet held a meeting under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm at 1100 today. At the beginning of the meeting, Dr al-Kasm talked about the results of Arab and international contacts and the new developments. The Cabinet reviewed the current political developments in the region.

The Cabinet asserted that the objective of the Husayn-'Arafat agreement is to liquidate the Palestine cause and that the parties which supported the agreement are the same parties which had supported the Camp David and the 17 May agreement. The Cabinet also asserted that the Arab Palestinian people and the Arab masses will foil this agreement as they have always foiled all plans hostile to their pan-Arab interests. Events have always proven Syria's sound political stand and course and the inevitability of its victory, because it is the firm pan-Arab position which represents the people's will.

TISHRIN Criticizes Husayn-'Arafat Agreement

JN231103 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus 23 Feb (SANA) — In its editorial, *TISHRIN* comments on the big change beginning to take shape in the area since the liberation of Sidon and the Israeli withdrawal. *TISHRIN* stresses that the United States and Israel are no longer in control of the equations they drew up for the area, since those have been destroyed at the hands of the pan-Arab national will led by Syria. The United States and Israel can no longer do whatever they like in the region. The conflict between the pan-Arab national will and the U.S.-Zionist will has become a test of strength.

TISHRIN says Syria has led this conflict with patience, determination, and concern. It practiced the game of arm twisting in unequal conditions and with a rare ability to stand fast. Moreover, Syria withstood great economic, military, and political pressure and finally achieved victory in the battle, led with rare efficiency by President Hafiz al-Asad, who now stands proud. The enemy has begun to cry while its arm is still being twisted by Syria and the splendid strikes of the Lebanese national resistance.

TISHRIN refers to the cancellation of the ill-omened May agreement, the liberation of Sidon, and Israeli withdrawal, and says that this is a victory for the Arab people and a lesson for all Arab capitulators. This lesson must be understood fully by 'Arafat, who concluded an agreement with King Husayn and fabricated a battle with Syria to save his own skin, because Syria would not let him sell Palestine to Husayn and Peres.

TISHRIN says that certain political results will not save Yasir 'Arafat, who was observing events from a distance and rubbing his hands together in glee, hoping that Israel would not withdraw from Sidon, since that would guarantee credibility for his black plan with Husayn and Peres. But what took place was a victory and a big change in the area's strategies and in Israeli, U.S., and Arab reactionary equations after the withdrawal from Sidon.

TISHRIN concludes its comment: Al-Asad has begun this "Arab era." This era will continue to strengthen to topple all deviats and deviations, because Hafiz al-Asad reads history as strugglers do, and not as capitulators do.

GDR Journalists Visit Damascus, Hold Talks

JN251522 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 25 Feb (SANA) — Eberhard Heinrich, Chairman of the GDR Association of Journalists, affirmed his country's support for Syria's struggle to establish a just and real peace in the Middle East.

This came during the talks held here today between Dr Sabir Falhut, chairman of the Journalists' Union, and a delegation from the leadership of the GDR Association of Journalists.

Heinrich described Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad as a center for making things happen and a focal point in the region. He expressed the GDR people's appreciation of the Syrian Arab

people's struggle and heroic steadfastness in the face of the Zionist and U.S. conspiracies and schemes. He also announced his country's support for the Palestinian Arab people's rights and its rejection of bilateral agreements.

During the talks, Dr Falhut hailed the relations of cooperation and joint struggle between Syria and the socialist countries, the foremost of which is the Soviet Union. He said that these relations represent the best example of joint cooperation, mutual respect, and militant alliance against imperialism and Zionism in the interest of peoples, the liberation movements, and just peace.

During this meeting, they reviewed the articles of the cooperation agreement between the two unions, and ways of bolstering cooperation between them were reviewed.

Minister of Construction To Visit CSSR, USSR

JN251437 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1356 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus, 25 Feb (SANA) — Minister of Construction Riyad Baghdadi left Damascus for Prague and Moscow this morning heading a delegation from the public sector's construction companies. The delegation will purchase vehicles and equipment for these companies from Czechoslovakia in implementation of the protocol that has been signed between the two countries for bartering purposes.

During its visit to Moscow, the delegation will also sign supplementary contracts to purchase spare parts for the vehicles and equipment that have recently been purchased from the Soviet Union.

Ba'th Official Receives Spanish Delegation

JN251219 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received the Spanish Senate delegation led by Senate President Jose Caravajal today. The talks revolved around bilateral relations to achieve the two countries' mutual interests. Comrade al-Ahmar asserted the determination of Syria and the Arab nation to confront Israel's aggression and U.S.-Zionist schemes of hegemony and capitulatory plans against Arab struggle.

On the other hand, Caravajal asserted the support of his country and people for the Arab issues. He hoped that the Arab Syrian people would achieve progress and prosperity under President Hafiz al-Asad.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for APU Meeting

JN251220 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus — People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi left Damascus for Aden this morning at the head of a delegation of People's Assembly members to attend the APU's [Arab Parliamentary Union] 15th session to be held in the PDRY beginning 26 February.

Al-Ahmar, Rajjuh Confer With Egyptian Communist

JN231850 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met with Michel Kamil, member of the Egyptian Communist Party Political Bureau, this morning.

Talks revolved around the most prominent developments in the Arab arena and the role of the Arab Liberation Movement's factions and forces in confronting the Camp David line and the liquidatory, captitulationist imperialist schemes, as well as the reactionary regimes that implement the roles drawn for them by the imperialist circles.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed the importance of the nationalist Egyptian forces' role in confronting the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian regime's policies that adhere to these agreements, as well as the importance of oiling these agreements so that Egypt will return to the Arab confrontation ranks against Israeli aggression and the U.S. hegemony and domination schemes.

During the meeting, Kamil praised Syria's nationalist and progressive line under comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Republic. He said that Syria is now the fortress of Arab steadfastness and that the Arab revolution springs from it. He also offered congratulations on the results of the eighth regional congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and asserted that Comrade Hafiz al-Asad's election to a new constitutional term is a confirmation of the continuity of Syria's principled line, which is hostile to imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaryism, and which is committed to the central causes of the Arab struggle and the continuation of the march on the progressive path to build socialism.

At noon today, Minister of Information Yasin Rajjuh met with Michel Kamil, member of the Egyptian Communist Party Political Bureau. Talsk revolved around Arab mass media's task in the current stage, and their role in confronting and exposing all the capitulationist schemes that U.S. imperialism and world Zionism are trying to impose on the region through their agents and the regimes under their domination to liquidate the central Arab cause — the Palestinian question. During the meeting, the information minister confirmed Syria's firm stand of steadfastness under comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialsit Ba'th Party and president of the Republic, against all the enemies of the Arab nation, whether they are imperialists, Zionists, or reactionaries. The minister explained that the country's stand, through its continuity and firmness during the last 14 years since the emergence of the blessed corrective movement, has become the center of decision-making in the Middle East.

Damascus Replies to Israeli Threat of Reprisals

JN231238 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, the Israeli reactions to the defeat of the withdrawal from Sidon have aroused the interest of world opinion and the United Nations as well political and official circles in the region. The reactions proceeded in two directions. The first is an attempt to portray the withdrawal that has taken place from Sidon, and that will take place from all other Lebanese territory, as a voluntary decision by the Israeli Government and not a compulsary withdrawal resulting from military defeat before the national resistance by the Lebanese people. In this respect, Peres, Rabin, and Levi made statements about adhering to the withdrawal and pulling back behind the border with Lebanon to retaliate against any future attacks on Israel. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said yesterday that Syria will be included in any possible future retaliatory strikes by Israel.

The second line of Israeli reactions to the withdrawal was the application of heavy-handed policy, as Rabin said. This application was represented by unleashing the defeated Israeli forces against peaceful Lebanese villages to besiege them, apply massive punishment to them, kill their inhabitants, destroy houses, and prevent food, medical, water, and fuel supplies to them. These acts, which have been carried out in areas under UNIFIL supervision, have perturbed the secretary general of the United Nations. However, these acts did not prompt the UN forces to confront the aggressors or to try to prevent them from molesting peaceful people.

The Israeli reactions will not surprise anyone because they were expected. In fact, these reactions are expected to escalate in the near future. There is no doubt that the Israeli Army has been defeated in Lebanon and that this defeat, the first of its kind in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is a historical turning point in this conflict and an indication of the factors that will determine the course of future developments. A defeated enemy is bound to carry out all kinds of crimes and to violate all international laws and norms. What the defeated and demoralized Israeli forces are doing is not an Israeli or Rabinite invention, but a repetition of what the Nazi forces did in the occupied areas to avenge national resistance operations. The Nazis took vengeance on the French village of Ouradour and killed all its inhabitants in the village church in revenge for French national resistance operations. They also completely razed the Czechoslovak village of Lidice. But these criminal acts of vengeance were not a manifestation of strength, but of weakness. Despite their savageness, these acts did not stop the collapse of racist Nazi Germany. Israel's savage acts of reprisals in southern Lebanon are also not a manifestation of strength or an expression of self-confidence, but a sign of anxiety, a lack of self-confidence, and fear of the future. No matter how savage, these acts will not stop the momentum that began in Sidon.

As for David Levi's reference to Syria, it is no more than an expression of the Israeli rulers' awareness of the important support Syria gives to the fraternal Lebanese people in their struggle to liberate their territory from the Israeli invaders and in consolidating Lebanon's national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. Levi and other Israeli rulers know full well that Syria neither fears threats nor retreats before challenges. More than that, they know that Syria can face any challenge from any side. It has everything necessary to make any aggressor who dares to provoke it pay a very heavy price for his adventure.

Dear listerners, the Israeli rulers are in a real dilemma, perhaps for the first time since the establishment of the racist Zionist entity in Palestine. This dilemma stems primarily from the failure of the policy of armed force and aggression in achieving its objectives and the emergence of an Arab power that can face the Israeli war machine, as well as the resort by an Arab people, whose land has been occupied, to the exercise of their natural right to defend themselves and to fight the occupiers with every available means.

Reaction to Egyptian Mideast Peace Initiative

Weizman Terms Move 'Positive'

TA251803 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Rumor in Jerusalem has it that Al-Baz will indeed arrive, and discuss with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres the proposals raised in a bid to promote the peace process, whose highlight will be a meeting in Cairo of delegations from Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the United States. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports from the Knesset on the latest developments in this affair:

[Schiffer — live] The large television crew waiting here at the entrace to the prime minister's Knesset office is proof of the great interest shown by the media in Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's latest move, the details of which became known today. As will be recalled, Mubarak proposed a conference in Cairo with the participation of Israel, Jordan, and the United States — with Palestinian representatives on the Jordanian delegation. This was stated in a *NEW YORK TIMES* interview, but the proposal reached the prime minister and Minister 'Ezer Weizman as early as last week during their visit to Bucharest, where they held a clandestine meeting with the chairman of the Egyptian Parliament's Foriegn Affairs Committee, Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah. The Egyptian envoy waited in Bucharest for Peres for 3 days and then briefed him on the ideas raised by his president. Today the Egyptians announced that they plan to dispatch to Israel President Mubarak's senior adviser, Dr al-Baz. The prime minister telephoned Yitzhaq Shamir, the vice prime minister and foreign minister — currently in Paris — and reported to him about the latest developments. Shim'on Peres said this evening that we are examining with great interest the ideas broached by the Egyptian president to promote the peace process. These ideas are worthy of a positive and careful examination. The prime minister added that the need for direct negotiations with Jordan or with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation without PLO representation is acceptable to us. In the talks, each party will present its positions and will take a serious view of the positions of the other party.

Deputy Foreign Minister Roni Milo has told us that Israel will not accept any PLO involvement, whether through participation in the Jordanian delegation or if members of that delegation are chosen by Yasir 'Arafat.

Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who was active behind the scenes in promoting relations with Egypt, replied to our questions this evening, and assessed the Egyptian president's move.

[Begin recording] [Weizman] I think this is a positive, and certainly interesting, move. I believe it demonstrates the leadership and strength of the Egyptian president, in pursuance of a process that began in the late 1970's and subsequently became frozen for various and sundry reasons. I think, moreover, he undertook this initiative after comprehending, assessing, and believing that the incumbent Cabinet — headed by Shim'on Peres — is the kind of government with which it is possible to try to begin talks.

[Schiffer] Do you think the Israeli Government, the national unity government in which the Likud is an equal partner, could adopt a proposal allowing Palestinian residents of the territories who would be sanctioned by Yasir 'Arafat to participate in the Jordanian delegation?

[Weizman] First of all, Mubarak's announcement never said that they would be endorsed by Yasir 'Arafat. Secondly, the style of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's announcement is very similar to the phrasing of the Camp David accords, which were signed by a Likud leader, then Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

[Schiffer] Do you really believe this is a substantial move, or is it only a move in preparation for Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States?

[Weizman] I would greatly caution against taking a petty look at life, as though leaders calculate their moves according to a visit to the United States, or sometimes to Moscow. Usually, although one may travel to the United States, one also finally returns home. Therefore, this assessment is unacceptable to me. I think this is a continuation of the policy pursued by the Egyptian president and King Husayn aimed at trying to draw nearer to tripartite Israeli-Jordanian-Egyptian contact with the Palestinians — just as the statement says — which is why I do not believe the move is aimed exclusively at the U.S. trip; I think this is a continuation of serious thinking and an attempt to launch a process between us and them.

[Schiffer] You participated in the meeting in Bucharest between Shim'on Peres and the first Egyptian envoy, the chairman of the Egyptian Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee. What was the purpose of that meeting in the Romanian capital?

[Weizman] Look, first of all, I cannot deny that I participated in the meeting; certainly I did. However, I certainly propose that the prime minister answer your question about the content of that meeting, as he is more senior. It was another contact between the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister. It is definitely necessary to reach a joint assessment as to whether there is any basis at all for beginning deliberations and renewing contacts, as existed during the 1970's. My assessment is that following that report, but not only that one, the Egyptian president reached the conclusion that despite its complexity, it is possible to begin talking to the Peres government.

[Schiffer] Finally, do you believe that as a result of these contacts a meeting will soon be held between the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister?

[Weizman] Look, right now, I cannot make certain predictions; I am only prepared to say one thing, that in my opinion, all these contacts are important, but they are not as important as the contacts between the heads of state. Just as Mr Peres traveled to meet with the Italian president and prime minister, and with the president and prime minister of Romania; and just as the Egyptian president went to meet with King Husayn; ultimately there will be a meeting — and there must be a meeting — between the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister. This meeting should be well prepared and well organized, and I am convinced that once these two men meet — and I know them both — this will constitute more than the beginning of the road for new and open opportunities. [end recording]

These are, therefore, the initial reactions to the ideas raised by the Egyptian president. One assessment is that perhaps these ideas were intended to impress the U.S. Administration in preparation for the Egyptian president's visit to Washington. At any rate, perhaps through roundabout ways, the real thing will come about, and we will witness a dialogue between the parties. Egypt no doubt wishes to bring the United States back to the center of political action in the region, but Israel, too, is interested in breaking the freeze.

As for the question of whether or not Usamah al-Baz will indeed arrive, the answer is that he will. As to whether or not this will happen tonight, sources in the Prime Minister's Office have indeed confirmed that he will arrive tonight. One thing is sure; when his plane lands, we will know this for certain.

Peres Studying Mubarak's Proposals

TA251848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Peres says the government is studying with great interest the latest proposals for Middle East peace negotiations put forward by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The prime minister's initial positive response to the Egyptian proposal comes amidst reports that President Mubarak is sending his top political adviser, Usamah al-Baz, to Israel tonight to confer with Shim'on Peres. On the latest developments reporter Ruth Blaukopf:

Husni Mubarak's proposals for Middle East negotiations between Israel and members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to be hosted either by Washington or Cairo, were made public today in an interview with *THE NEW YORK TIMES*. But Prime Minister Peres, it now emerges, was apprised of them as early as last week, when he met in Bucharest with Egyptian envoy Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Egyptian Parliament. Tonight the prime minister said Israel must subject the Egyptian proposal to a positive and precise examination. Israel, Peres said, accepts the idea of direct negotiations with Jordan or with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, provided it does not include PLO representatives.

President mubarak, in his interview with *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, said the Palestinian delegates should be chosen by the PLO, but it was left unclear whether this necessarily meant they would comprise PLO members. Mubarak's call on the Reagan administration to host such direct talks has found little echo in Washington. A White House spokesman today said the administration will not take an active role until there is agreement to negotiations among the parties concerned. The administration, he said, was looking to the Arabs for an agreement which would allow King Husayn to begin direct negotiations with Israel. Washington's position was no doubt clarified when Prime Minister Peres met earlier this evening in the Knesset with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis.

Reports throughout the evening from Cairo that Mubarak was dispatching Usamah al-Baz to Israel tonight have now been withdrawn by the Egyptian news agency without explanations. This follows a denial by Al-Baz himself that he was undertaking such a mission. The latest reports now say the Egyptian president is thinking of sending an envoy to confer with Prime Minister Peres, but neither his identity nor the date of his arrivel is being specified.

Mubarak Ideas Termed 'Practical'

TA260602 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Political sources said in Jerusalem last night that President Mubarak's ideas are the first practical proposals by an Arab leader for direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors. In an interview with our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, the sources pointed out that if the president of Egypt materializes his ideas, he will find attentive ears in Israel.

Earlier, Prime Minister Peres said the Egyptian president's ideas should be examined carefully and with a positive spirit.

Arens Skeptical About Initiative

TA260732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Telephone interview with Minister Arens by Shalom Qital — live]

[Text] Minister Moshe Arens is now on the phone. Good morning, sir.

[Arens] Good morning, Shalom.

[Qital] To examine the details [of Mubarak's proposals] positively; is that a formulation you accept?

[Arens] We have not yet reached the point at which it is possible to examine the details; with the contacts being made through the media it is not exactly clear what the intention is. This is generally done via ambassadors. To our regret, we do not have an Egyptian ambassador in Israel because of Egypt's violation of the peace agreement with us. I understand that an envoy is scheduled to arrive in Israel within the next few days. As soon as he arrives, I think we will know more clearly what this is all about.

[Qital] You mentioned the ambassador. By chance, someone reminded me that today marks 5 years since the first Israeli ambassador to Cairo presented his credentials, 5 years since that formal act of the peace relations...

[Arens, interrupting] It has been 2 and 1/2 years in the meantime since the Egyptians recalled their ambassador for consultations in Cairo.

[Qital] Yes. At one time, you were skeptical in your attitude toward the peace agreement. Do you have any conclusions from that skepticism?

[Arens] Look, I think everyone will agree, those who were skeptical and those who were optimistic, that the relations currently

existing between Israel and Egypt are not exactly the relations we had hoped for when we signed the agreement and when we paid the heavy price we did pay. We are still, all of us, filled with hope that we will indeed achieve relations of genuine peace and friendship.

[Qital] In actual fact, Mr Arens, to turn to the proposal that has already been published — an initiative for a conference in Cairo with the participation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation — how does this idea appear to you?

[Arens] Look, in fact, no special initiatives are needed here. The Camp David agreements determine the process of the negotiations and they actually began and the Egyptians stopped them. All the Egyptians need to do is to announce today that they are prepared to return to the negotiations. The Jordanians were also invited then. The invitation is an open one. As soon as the Jordanians are ready to join, we will only be happy to welcome them. All that has to be done is to continue the same process that was stopped at one time by the Egyptians.

[Qital] The point is, of course, Mr Arens, that it is not only a question of a Jordanian delegation, but a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

[Arens] Look, that is what is known in English as double-talk [last term in English], words that are not clear. After all, Jordan is a Palestinian state and any Jordanian delegation is in fact a Palestinian delegation. What is clear, beyond a shadow of a doubt, is that the Government of Israel will not conduct negotiations with the PLO.

[Qital] Not even with a Jordanian delegatin which contains Palestinain representatives who are not known to be PLO members? Mr Shahal, for instance, quoted Mr Begin, who once said that Palestinian delegates could join without anyone examining their identity cards.

[Arens] Shalom, I just told you, I think that is agreed on by everyone. Jordan is a Palestinian state, all the inhabitants of Jordan are Palestinians, and certainly any delegate Jordan sends to these talks will be acceptable to us, but we will not conduct negotiations with PLO members.

[Qital] Let us assume, representatives from the territories, Ilyas Frayj or others? Bassam al-Shak'ah?

[Arens] I do not think we will dictate to the Jordanians exactly who they should send, and it seems to me that that is not the problem, unless there is also an attempt to bring PLO members to the talks. By the way, we are not yet facing the talks; as I told you, at this stage, we have not received any clear and unambiguous explanations via envoys; we have only heard remarks made over the media. We do not know that there has recently been a rapprochement between King Husayn and the PLO. This is very dangerous indeed; it is disturbing. Nor are we pleased with those feelers between Egypt and PLO members. We see countries that announced and declared in the past that they are opposed to terrorism coming closer to a terrorist organizations.

[Qital] Mr Arens, at this early stage, does it seem to you that there is any danger to the national unity government because of this initiative?

[Arens] No, I do not think so. I think that, at this stage, our positions are clear and they encompass all those who are partners in the national unity government.

[Qital] The position expressed last night by the prime minister, is it acceptable to you?

[Arens] You will need to quote it.

[Qital] That the details must be examined, but it should be taken positively and there is progress in the Egyptian position.

[Arens] I certainly believe the details must be examined. As I told you, announcements over the media are not the normal way to conduct relations between countries, and we are in this situation as a result of the Egyptians' violation of the agreement when they recalled their ambassador. As soon as an envoy comes, of course — if he will indeed come from Egypt — we will certainly make a detailed examination of the proposals, if he does indeed bring such proposals.

Begin on Mubarak's Initiative

TA260840 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0827 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] With respect to Mubarak's initiative, former Prime Minister Menahem Begin said this morning that any negotiations with Jordan should be based on the Camp David agreements. There is no other basis and there is no other agreement, the former prime minister said. He commented that President Mubarak's initiative was in that direction.

However, he said he would react further when he knew the contents of the initiative. For the moment, Begin said, we only know of appeals and only when we know more about what was said and what mission has been laid on President Mubarak will there be any point in reacting.

Egyptian Envoy, Eban Exchange Opinions on Ties

TA232018 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel, today met with Abba Eban, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Basyuni and Eban exchanged opinions on Israeli-Egyptian relations and recent developments in Tabah.

Basyuni also gave Eban a message from Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali who explained that contrary to earlier reports, all of Eban's books have been displayed at the Cairo International Book Fair.

Eban on Jordanian-PLO Agreement

TA240626 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Telephone interview with Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Knesset Member Abba Eban by Yitzhaq Ro'e — live]

[Text] [Ro'e] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Abba Eban, yesterday conferred with the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel, Muhammad Basyuni and, among other things, discussed the Jordanian-PLO agreement. Good morning to you, Abba Eban.

[Eban] Good morning.

[Ro'e] Did you get the impression from either Basyuni or any other channel that there is something new in the report published yesterday [on the Jordanian-PLO agreement]?

[Eban] The Egyptian assessment is that progress has been made in the position of the Jordanians and the Palestinians. I must cite Husayn's own description; he said the agreement is a narrow opening. Indeed, the opening is so narrow that if it is not widened, the Israelis will have a hard time noticing it. Therefore, I do not think this is any news. The intellectual process is not a negative one. In other words, compared with previous positions, I see that both Jordan and the Palestinians are hesitant and feel that time is running against them, that what they might miss today they might not achieve tomorrow. However, they surround the negotiations with very (?tough) conditions for Israel and they vaguely suggest and imply things. For example, they do not specifically mention UN Resolution 242 while they do mention other UN resolutions. Incidentally, these include the resolution equating Zionism with racism, and UN resolutions calling for imposing sanctions against Israel. All these negative points coupled with the cumbersome and illogical framework of an international conference lead us to a clear conclusion — we must follow and definitely keep in touch with [word indistinct]. Since both Mubarak and Husayn look up to the United States, we must keep in constant and permanent touch with the United States which, incidentally, does not think that the Arab positions are satisfactory yet.

However, except for closely following the situation I do not think we should go as far as assuming that we succeeded in breaking the [word indistinct] barrier.

[Ro'e] Indeed, a narrow opening rather than a breakthrough. How would you react to the formulation — implicit recognition of Resolution 242?

[Eban] I must say that I do not know, despite the many years during which I have dealt with the issue of recognition. I am familiar with the jargon, but I do not know what implied recognition means and why, after 36 years, Israel is not yet entitled to have its name explicitly mentioned. The problem is to go beyond double-talk about implicit recognition and make clear statements. We have not yet heard any clear statements, but I would not suggest that we despair. I do not think that this process has reached its climax.

[Ro'e] Could you tell us anything about your meeting with Muhammad Basyuni yesterday and whether you received any encouragement from that direction?

[Eban] Basyuni has been to Cairo several times recently and he deemed proper to initiate a meeting with me to tell me a few things. Some of these things were personal [words indistinct] President Mubarak who referred to our meeting in April last year. [Words indistinct] regarding my books at the book fair in Cairo, he thought it proper to convey to me the explanation by the Egyptian foreign minister, to the effect that all my books were displayed at the fair, except for a book published in 1968 in which there is definitely a very sharp attack against the Egyptian policy and leadership at that time. I just listened to him.

[Ro'e] Then, you did not discuss Resolution 242?

[Eban] We most definitely did. In almost every meeting, the Egyptians try to persuade us that the Arab position — the Jordanian-Palestinian position — has taken a positive turn. He promised to send me the exact text in Arabic of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement which I would very much like to peruse. However, I do not suggest that (?we delude ourselves) at a time when Husayn himself talks about a narrow and minuscule opening which means that he is not yet satisfied with the Palestinian position. I reiterate, there definitely is some kind of ideological-political ferment in the Arab camp. There is no doubt that this stems from the fact that time is passing and a solution has not been found, and that this situation puts them under a lot of pressure. Therefore, this is not a negative development, but one cannot say that the obstacles on the way to negotiations have been removed.

Reportage on Minister Shahal's Trip to Cairo

Shahal on Mideast Proposal

TA251233 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpt] [Tzvi Lidar] We opened this newsreel with a report on the proposal put forward by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to convene an international conference on the Middle East in Cairo, a conference under U.S. auspices, to be attended by representatives of Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and with the participation of Palestinians who are not PLO members. We have repeated all this simply because our next guest on this newsreel is now in our Knesset studio, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal. Good day, sir.

[Shahal] Good day.

[Lidar] You are actually going to Egypt at a delicate time, when such interesting proposals are being put forward. To begin with, what is your reaction, if you have heard about this, since it is really new?

[Shahal] I have not only heard, I have also asked for the exact wording of the remarks by the Egyptian president. I think the statement is very interesting and the proposal being made by the

Egyptian president is undoubtedly worthy of profound and serious perusal and a serious attitude by Israel.

[Lidar] Mr Shahal, you are scheduled to meet with the Egyptian president, so I understand.

[Shahal] I hope so.

[Lidar] You hope so, is it not yet certain?

[Shahal] I am going to visit Egypt. Meetings have been planned with ...

[Lidar, interrupting] I would just like to first discuss the political aspect. This visit undoubtedly has a political aspect, in any event, because you are the first minister for a very long time to go there. The question is, too, whether you will be taking, for instance, a message with you from the prime minister? Have you spoken to him about this?

[Shahal] Of course I have spoken to the prime minister. I cannot conceive of a minister traveling on a mission without speaking to his prime minister beforehand, and the prime minister has, indeed, given me all the good advice I need for the talks and meetings I am to have in Egypt.

[Lidar] Just advice?

[Shahal] I would prefer to report, when I return, rather than speaking before I leave.

Shahal Arrives in Cairo

TA252027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Energy Minister Moshe Shahl has arrived in Cairo, bearing a message from Prime Minister Peres to President Mubarak. Shim'on Peres told the AP correspondent in Jerusalem that he is dispatching Shahal for preliminary talks with Mubarak on the Middle East.

The Egyptian charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv, Muhammad Basyuni, has told our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar that Egypt will discuss any topic that will be raised by Minister Shahl during his visit. Officially, Shahal left for Cairo for talks with 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, Egypt's minister of petroleum and mineral wealth.

Reception 'Friendly,' 'Warm'

TA260631 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] We will now discuss the Egyptian initiative; perhaps we will call it the Mubarak initiative. By chance or not, Israel's energy minister, Moshe Shahal, is in Cairo. He arrived there last night and a few moments ago we spoke with him:

[Begin recording] [Shahal] The reception was very friendly, very warm. The oil minister, Mr Qandil, who is my host, received me at the airport with a group of people from his ministry. They are trying to do everything for my visit to be pleasant and good, and as for the meetings, we are only beginning today. I will only be able to comment further after the talks and meetings are held. This is the first visit to Egypt by a minister in the current government; this is an opportunity to hold talks with the leaders of the Egyptian Administration and its government ministers and even more than that. It is obvious that, at this opportunity, it will be possible to present Israel's positions and also to hear the views of our Egyptian counterparts.

[Shalom Qital] I understand that you are carrying with you a personal message from the prime minister to President Mubarak.

[Shahal] I do not want to go into detail about this. I have with me what I need for the purposes of this visit.

[Qital] Does it seem to you that, within a short time, there will be an Israeli delegation at a conference in Cairo?

[Shahal] I think the answer provided by the prime minister definitely represents the Israeli Government's attitude. The details must be examined and we must have a positive attitude toward the initative for direct talks between Israel and its neighbors. If this is facilitated by such a meeting in Cairo, I think — I would even say — they are, at long last, fulfilling our expectations. The peace agreement between us and Egypt, for me, was a stage for the clarification of the possibility of a comprehensive peace, peace with other countries in the area, and Egypt — since it is the greatest Arab country — was and is able to play a positive role in this field. Therefore I think we must welcome the possibility of another country joining the talks and Egypt's contribution, and that of President Mubarak for that matter, if it is in a direction acceptable to us, can only be welcome.

[Qital] There has not only been talk about a country, there is talk about a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. I know this is not a question of the PLO's active participation, but is there no change here in Israel's official attitude toward the PLO?

[Shahal] No, I can say that the attitude and the desire to hold a dialogue with Palestinian leaders who do not belong to the PLO has always been favored by us for a long time and within the framework we wanted for it, and it even exists in the government's basic guidelines. But, more than that, at one time, Mr Begin, when he was prime minister, said something even more far-reaching than this, that he was prepared for the participation of Palestinians and he would not check their identity cards. I believe that no one thinks the questions on the agenda can be resolved without a solution to the Palestinian problem and without the participation of Palestinians, who also have a status in the Camp David agreements; without this I do not think a solution can be reached. [end recording]

Shamir Visits France, Meets With Mitterrand

For Paris and Israeli coverage of the visit to France by Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his meetings with French leaders, including French President Francois Mitterrand and External Relations Minister Roland Dumas, see the

France section of the 26 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

U.S. Informs Jerusalem About Vienna Talks

TA250616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The Soviet Union has again rejected a U.S. appeal to renew diplomatic relations with Israel. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the issue was raised during the Vienna talks between the two representatives of the superpowers last week and a report on this has been passed on to Jerusalem.

The report says that, in reply to the U.S. appeal, the Soviet representatives asked: Is the U.S. secretary of state prepared to hold direct talks with one of the PLO leaders, Faruq Qaddumi?

The U.S. representative to the talks also raised the question of the emigration of Soviet Jews, and the Soviets replied that the fate of the Palestinians has no less moral significance.

On the issue of UNIFIL, the Soviet representative agreed to the stationing of that force only along the international border, and only after the completion of the entire withdrawal.

Indirect Trade Relations With PRC Revealed

TA230912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Buyers from the PRC and agents from Hong Kong and other places have approached Israeli businessmen with proposals for purchasing industrial equipment, computer components, and other related items. Hong Kong merchants also buy diamonds from Israel and market them in the PRC. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez has learned this from Israeli businessmen.

'Special' Romanian Envoy To Visit 'Shortly'

TA251014 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Arye Tzimuqi report]

[Text] A special envoy on behalf of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu will arrive shortly in Jerusalem; this follows Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' recent visit to Bucharest. Among other things, during his stay in Israel the envoy will discuss the establishment of "Romania house" which will deal with all the matters pertaining to bilateral relations in the economic, cultural, and political spheres.

The idea to establish such a house was raised by Peres, and it gained the enthusiastic support of Ceausescu who spoke in favor of increasing bilateral ties, especially in economic and cultural matters.

The Romanian envoy will also examine some of the political ideas raised in Peres' talks with Ceausescu and with the Romanian prime minister. A delegation of Romanian economic ministers is also expected to visit Israel for a series of talks with their counterparts in the Israeli Government.

It has been learned that Romania's Prime Minister Dascalescu requested that the travel tax for Israeli tourists wanting to visit Romania be reduced.

Kimche Says Sweden Wants To Thaw Relations

TA250804 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] Sweden is apparently interested in thawing previously cool relations with Israel, and is also considering using Israeli know-how in several Swedish aid projects in the Third World, according to David Kimche, director-general of the Foreign Ministry.

He returned over the weekend from a three-day visit to Sweden, where he found officials much warmer than in previous official contacts between the two countries. He met with Deputy Premier Ingvar Carlsson, Foreign Minister Lennart Bodstrom, and Defence Minister Borje Andersson [title and name as published].

The aid projects would probably involve using Israeli experts, mainly in agriculture, to work in Third World countries.

Italian Parliamentary Delegation Begins Visit

TA241624 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1620 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 24 Feb (ITIM) — An 8-member Italian parliamentary delegation, headed by (Giuseppe Amadei), the chairman of the Israel-Italy Friendship Association, arrived this afternoon for a week-long visit as the guest of the Knesset.

At the airport, the delegates were welcomed by Knesset Member Dov Shilansky, chairman of the Knesset Internal Affairs Committee and head of the Israel-Italy Friendship Association. The parliamentarians will be seen by the president tomorrow, and will also meet with Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel and with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. They will also tour Jerusalem and Christian holy sites in the Galilee, and visit Bethlehem and Old Jerusalem.

Transportation Minister Corfu Departs for Uruguay

TA251140 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1130 GMT 25 Feb 85

["Announcement by the Transportation Ministry Spokesman" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Jerusalem, 25 Feb (ITIM) — Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu last night departed aboard an El Al plane for New York en route to Uruguay. Mr Corfu will represent the Israeli Government at the inauguration ceremony for the new Uruguayan president.

During his stay in Uruguay and in Argentina, Minister Corfu will meet representatives of the Jewish communities in Montevideo and Buenos Aires. The transportation minister will make

a stopover in New York where he will closely follow the negotiations to settle the labor dispute with local El Al workers.

Moda'i on Upcoming Talks in U.S.

TA241542 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i will depart for a visit to the United States in 2 days, and today he said that there is no intention of requesting additional aid for the present year. According to Moda'i, the purpose of his visit is to continue the dialogue with the United States, in light of the decisions and the series of economic moves decided upon by the Israeli Cabinet.

Yitzhaq Moda'i was addressing a forum of economic reporters today in a seminar conducted by the Treasury, and our correspondent Ze'ev Hasper brings this report on his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Hasper] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i departs for Washington in 2 days after months of recurrent postponements. Just prior to his departure, Moda'i said today: I am not going to request contingency aid.

[Moda'i] We have no intention of discussing with our colleagues in the United States a substantial increase of the civilian aid to us. All the talks were about the question of whether, if we implement an economic recovery plan which could involve digressions that will preclude the continuation of the recovery process, they will in any way agree to stand by our side and help us, if the need should arise. This is the main question.

[Hasper] So what, then, is the purpose of the visit? Everyone knows about the differences of opinion with the Americans on a series of economic issue — the scope of the budget cuts, the rate of exchange policy — especially in regard to the possibility of honoring decisions that had already been adopted.

Moda'i will try to convince the Americans that Israel is capable of fulfilling its promises and carrying out its resolutions. He departs for Washington armed with a new and curtailed budget, a law limiting the possibility of digressions from the budget confines, laws — still under legislation — on absorbing more money from the public, and more.

Despite the declarations, clearly the $800 million emergency aid provides the setting for the above. Moda'i is hardly expected to return with this sum in his pocket. [end recording]

Moda'i Presents State Budget to Knesset

TA260744 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Feb 85 p 2

[Report by Knesset Correspondent Arye Rubinstein]

[Excerpt] "If 10 percent of the workers in the public service are superfluous, that's 3.3 percent of the state budget, if 20 percent, that's 6.6 percent of the budget," Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i told the Knesset yesterday when he presented the fiscal 1985 budget for its first reading.

The seven-hour debate on the budget began at the conclusion of the minister's speech. It is expected to end tomorrow.

Moda'i said public-sector workers' salaries account for one-third of the state budget, excluding debt repayment.

"This one-third is spent on workers in the public service, whose ratio to all workers in the economy is too high by any criterion."

Preliminary talks have been held with the objective of reducing this budget item, Moda'i said, either by retraining workers for productive jobs or temporarily reducing the number of work days or work hours per week, with a proportionate reduction in salaries.

In part of his prepared speech, which he did not read, Moda'i says that job slots in government ministries will be reduced by 3,800, of which 1,700 are already not manned.

In addition, the proposed budget envisages a reduction of "up to 10,000" posts in the public sector apart from the ministries, such as local authorities, the defence and education establishments, and government companies.

On the whole, though, Moda'i said, there is "nothing original" about this budget. To prepare a budget built on a new evaluation takes time, and he hoped that next year's budget would be of that kind.

Obviously referring to his two immediate predecessors in office, Moda'i said that it is easy to fight inflation at the expense of the balance of payment, and vice versa; and that it is also easy to make structural changes in the economy that will bear fruit in the long run, but in the short run are at the expense of the two other factors.

"We cannot permit ourselves any further deterioration in any one of these areas, and we have therefore chosen steps that interlock all of these as simultaneous goals.

"It can be done. It depends on the burden the citizens of Israel are prepared to assume in the short run — and I refer also to the government through its budget, for everything is at the expense of the citizens."

Moda'i went out of his way to thank "our great friend, the United States, its people, Congress, the administration, and of course its president," for its financial aid.

"It is not self-evident that a superpower should give such large sums — more than it gives any other country — for such a long stretch of time. And we must not take this for granted, at least not the civilian component of American aid, as something we can continue to lean on for years to come."

He said the free trade agreement with the U.S. should soon open up a tremendous market for Israeli goods, at preferential terms. In reply to an interjection, he said the agreement should be signed within the next few weeks, "if there are no further obstacles."

No-Confidence Motions Submitted by Knesset Factions

MAPAM, CRM, HADASH Motions

TA221218 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The MAPAM and Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] factions are submitting no-confidence motions in the government over the increase in prices of basic goods. MAPAM says this is yet another blow to people on low incomes, and the CRM says that the Labor Party is conducting a Shamir-like peace and security policy, and a Moda'i-style social and welfare policy.

Earlier the HADASH faction announced that it is submitting a no-confidence motion.

PLP Submits Motion

TA241430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1420 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Knesset Members Mi'ari and Peled of the Progressive List for Peace [PLP] have submitted a motion of no-confidence against the government due to the iron-handed policy in Lebanon. In their motion the two say that the government has lost its wisdom and ability to extricate Israel from the Lebanese adventure.

Manufacturers Decide To Withdraw From Package Deal

TA241708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] The manufacturers have decided to withdraw from the economic package deal. Our correspondent Tzahi Noga reports that at the end of a 3-hour meeting, the proposal of Eli Hurvitz, the head of the Manufacturers Association, to withdraw from the deal was accepted, but the participants authorized Hurvitz to continue to hold negotiations with the prime minister and finance minister until Wednesday of this week. The presidium of the Coordinating Bureau of the Economic Organizations is now meeting in the manufacturers house in Tel Aviv.

Package Deal To Continue

TA251826 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The prices of subsidized goods will go up by 12 percent next month. Our correspondent reports that this is one of the resolutions adopted this evening in a meeting between the prime minister and the partners to the package deal, at the conclusion of which it was decided that the package deal will not be abolished. The chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Economic Organization, Eli Hurvitz, has said that he demanded that principles worked out in the package deal be implemented. He and his colleagues were promised that every effort will be made to meet their demands. Eli Huvitz will present this resolution to the presidium of the economic organizations, and if the demands are met by Wednesday, the manufacturers will not withdraw from the package deal.

Defense Ministry Reassessing Lavi Project

TA251309 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Feb 85 pp 1, 11

[Text] The Defense Ministry is reassessing the Lavi project. The possibility should not be ruled out that the project might be canceled and replaced by a sophisticated U.S. aircraft, such as General Dynamics' F-16 or Northrop's F-20, which would be jointly assembled in Israel. This fact has been learned from aviation sources, and the gist of it has been confirmed by top Defense Ministry officials.

The reassessment of the project should be concluded within a few months. "At the moment," a senior source said, "the decision on the Lavi project has not been changed, but if some forecasts prove correct I would not bet on the Lavi being the aircraft to be manufactured by Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] for the Israeli Air Force.

Two recent important developments led defense officials to reassess the whole issue: First, the review of the Lavi project has been completed and it appears that the Defense Ministry greatly underestimated its expenses and that the project's cost would be much higher than anticipated.

Second, the U.S. Administration has not ruled out the possibility that even if the Lavi project is canceled, it would still grant Israel $300 million per year in military aid to cover the expense of building an aircraft in Israel.

At the same time, the Northrop Company has made a very tempting offer to the Defense Ministry regarding the assembly of a modern aircraft in Israel. This plane is in many respects still on paper, and can still be altered to meet the needs of the Israeli Air Force. It has been learned that General Dynamics, too, is about to raise a proposal to assemble an improved model of the F-16 in Israel.

The financial review of the Lavi project was carried out according to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's instructions. Rabin was reportedly dissatisfied with the IAI data, and requested that three other independent bodies analyze the data.

The new estimates "shocked the Defense Ministry," a defense source closely associated with the issue stated. These estimates also changed the assessment of the situation in a way that not many people in the Defense Ministry now believe that the project has passed the point of no-return.

Defense Budget To Stand at $4 Billion

TA251829 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The defense budget will stand at $4 billion. The sum includes the defense aid from the United States, but not the expenses involved in the IDF stay in Lebanon or the withdrawal from there. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the Defense Ministry will be able to have an even larger budget if it manages to cut the number of days of reserve duty. The defense minister will soon present the ministers with the IDF budget cut proposal, and explain its implications.

Two Wounded in Ashdod Explosion

TA260746 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0744 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] An explosive charge with a delayed-action fuse exploded this morning inside a shop for building materials in Ashdod's industrial zone. Two people were wounded in the explosion. They suffered moderate wounds and were evacuated to the Kaplan hospital. The police think that this device was planted against a terrorist background. The investigation continues.

'Terrorists' Wounded During Searches in S. Lebanon

TA251620 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1605 GMT 25 Feb 85

["Report from the IDF Spokesman" — ITIM headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] The following report has been submitted by military sources: Since this morning, the IDF has been carrying out searches and detentions in two villages in southern Lebanon. People suspected of planning and carrying out terrorist acts against the IDF were apprehended, and the IDF collected a number of weapons and ammunition.

In Haruf, some people suspected of having planned and perpetrated terrorist acts were detained, and two terrorists were hurt while trying to escape. A lot of equipment, including hand grenades, shells, mortar shells, dynamite, ammunition, guns, bombs, and containers of detonators, was found, and the house in which the materiel was discovered was demolished.

In Shabriha, people suspected of engaging in terrorist acts were apprehended, and a terrorist who tried to flee was wounded. Warfare materiel was found there, too.

Ilia Says 'Terror Must Be Fought With Terror'

TA221503 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Brigadier General Shlomo Ilia, the commander of the IDF liaison unit for southern Lebanon, says that terror must be fought with terror, and that the measures taken must be understood by the language of terror. He also says that the measures which have been taken by the IDF in southern Lebanon during the last week are not the only ones at its disposal. Ilia was speaking with the Voice of Israel Arabic-language correspondent, Shlomo Gindi.

Lusophone Troops To Aid Angola, Mozambique

LD251303 Lisbon International Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Military personnel from Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe will soon be fighting the antigovernment movements operating in the People's Republic of Angola and the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The dispatch of these African troops to Angola and Mozambique is understood to have been recently agreed upon among the five Lusophone African countries during their summit of heads of state held in Sao Tome.

It will be recalled that in 1975, Guinea-Bissau sent members of its armed forces to Angola to fight the movements opposed to the MPLA , that is, the FNLA and UNITA.

UNITA in Angola and Renamo in Mozambique are now the two antigovernemnt movements whose activities the Luanda and Maputo regimes (?intend) to fight with military reinforcements from the other three ex-Portuguese colonies.

Kagera Basin Heads of State Summit Held in Arusha

EA231851 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Arusha — The Kagera Basin organization has reached agreement on a new formula for its budget. The agreement was reached by the leaders of that organization's four member-countries at the conclusion of their 1-day summit at Arusha. According to the new formula, which was made effective from 1 January, this year, Tanzania will make the biggest contribution, 35 percent, followed by Uganda with 23 percent, Rwanda with 22 percent, and Burundi will contribute 20 percent. The organization's member-countries used to contribute 25 percent each before adoption of the new formula.

A joint communique issued after the 1-day summit said each member state's contribution will depend on the country's income, size, income per capita, population, and the portion of the valley in each country.

The communique said [the organization] is satisfied with the development thus for achieved in the Kagera Valley.

President Milton Obote of Uganda and President Bagaza of Burundi have departed from Arusha for home. Rwanda's President Habyarimana is still in Arusha, where he will be visiting national parks.

OAU Foreign Ministers Meeting Opens in Addis Ababa

More Officials Arrive

EA251754 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0930 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Ministers of foreign affairs from 15 countries [as heard] arrived in Addis Ababa this morning to attend the 41st OAU foreign ministers regular meeting which opens today. Those who have arrived include Basile Guissou of Burkina Faso, Dr Butrus Ghali of Egypt, Martin Bongo of Gabon, Ernest Eastman of Liberia, Dr Obed Asamoah of Ghana, Elijah Mwangale of Kenya, and Lassou Gouara [of Chad]. Dr 'Ali Ahmad al-Hudayri, assistant secretary of foreign liaison of Libya; Venancio da Silva Moura, deputy minister in the Angolan Foreign Ministry; (Ramazoka Maurius), assistant minister in the Malagasy Foreign Ministry; Carlos Alberto Tiny, Sao Tome and Principe minister of cooperation; Dr (Agonaldo Ramose), assistant minister in the Cape Verde Foreign Ministry; Richard Haba, Guinean minister of industry; Mario Cabral, Guinea-Bissau minister of commerce, finance, and tourism [title as heard]; and (Ali Aldoro Owano), first secretary in the Equatorial Guinea Foreign Ministry, also arrived today.

To welcome the ministers at Bole International Airport were Comrade Goshu Wolde, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee member and minister of foreign affairs, Dr Peter Onu, OAU interim secretary general, and ambassadors of the respective countries.

Meeting Opens

AB251744 Paris AFP in English 1652 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Addis Ababa, Feb 25 (AFP) — The ministerial council of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) began nine days of meetings here today aimed at paving the way for an OAU economic summit scheduled for later this year.

In an opening address to the council, Ethiopian Deputy Premier Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress lashed out at South Africa's apartheid policies of racial segregation and condemned African states which have failed to respect OAU restrictions on links with Pretoria regime. The attack appeared aimed at neighboring Somalia, which recently signed an air traffic agreement with South Africa.

Morocco and Zaire both failed to send delegates to the council meeting. Rabat announced it was withdrawing from the OAU at the organization's summit here late last year in protest over the entry of the Polisario Front, which is battling Morocco for control of the Western Sahara. Zaire withdrew from the summit in solidarity with the Moroccan decision.

Mr Fikre-Selassie said the council, which will meet until March 5, would seek to define a realistic economic policy for the pan-African organization.

Mengistu Sends Message

EA252121 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The 41st ordinary session of the OAU Foreign Ministers Council opened at Africa Hall this afternoon with a message from Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Central Committee secretary general, PMAC [Provisional Military Administrative Council] chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, read to the congress by Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

In his message, the comrade secretary general said that in order to contain the drought problem in Africa and to look for a lasting solution, African countries should implement the Lagos plan of action by taking individual and joint action. He added that African countries must make great efforts to contain their problems. He stressed that the problem had become so complex, both quantitatively and qualitatively, that it required international cooperation and support. In his message, our comrade revolutionary leader noted that, although the actions taken by the international community are encouraging, some countries are nevertheless trying to use the drought and famine problem as a political weapon in pursuit of their political objectives. To curb this, African countries should further strengthen their cooperation.

ALGERIA

Burkinabe Defense Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

LD252148 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The military delegation from Burkina Faso left Algiers today after a visit which lasted several days. The delegation led by Defense Minister Lingani, who this morning delivered a message from President Thomas Sankara to President Chadli Bendjedid.

Asked on his departure about the results of this visit, Mr Lingani indicated that all visits were very instructive in the defense field and the consolidation of our struggle. Relations are bound to develop in several fields, particularly in training and planning, added the Burkinabe defense minister.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Black Revolution in U.S.

LD251817 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution spoke to the annual conference of black Americans, Nation of Islam, held in Chicago on the occasion of the day of salvation 1985 AD with a direct address last night via satellite which was transmitted to about 60 countries.

The brother leader of the revolution at the beginning of his address said: I want to congratulate you on this mass meeting of the Nation of Islam in America. This is a historic opportunity to speak directly to you and to express my full support and the support of my country for your struggle for freedom, release from bondage, and dignity.

The leader added: I am happy to see you with such power and to see a determination with such a power which enabled you to organize this mass meeting and to convene this great conference as a symbol of challenge — the challenge to your racist enemies.

The brother leader explained in his address that America is not just a land for whites only. Addressing the conference, he said: Your black forefathers came to America long before white men and you are an extension of our homeland and continent, Africa. You have the right and the priority to America, to its resources and its authority before white men. However, do not forget your red Indian brothers who were there before the white.

The leader explained that unfortunately for the great nation of red Indians it was destroyed by white men and America is still destroying them now. The leader said: The blacks and the red Indians are brothers-in-struggle against racism, the common enemy, and the enemy of all of us. The leader said: We are with you in your struggle because the cause of freedom is our common cause. You and the red Indians are victims of racism. In order to score a victory it is important to establish a strategic alliance between blacks and red Indians.

The leader stressed that the whites "rejection" of black rights to America, and refusal to treat them as equals and accept them as American citizens in America force the blacks to set up an independent state. In this connection the leader said: The whites drove you to this because they politically and socially rejected you and are oppressing you. This oppression will continue because they decided to stay apart and keep America for the whites. He pointed out that it is disgraceful that America, a great country and major power, is committing such practices.

Addressing the blacks, he said: You have the right to struggle to establish an independent state. You have more than 400,000 black soldiers in the American Army. This large [words indistinct] means that they are trying to drive you to war in the interest of the whites. He said: The right way is for those soldiers to leave the American Army and to join your force to create black power. He said: We support you in establishing an independent state and an independent army; we are prepared to train and arm you. Your cause is a just one because freedom is our cause and imperialism our common enemy.

The leader stressed the impossibility ['adam istihalat] of defeating America. He pointed out that America was impotent when its agents and symbols collapsed in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Iran. He said: Revolution now is spreading and growing in Central America and Latin America and is encircling America and surrounding the stronghold of imperialism which is practicing disgraceful policies and is applying racial policies.

The brother leader of the revolution in his address said: I am certain, and I am full of hope, that our joint struggle will be crowned with final victory for our just cause.

He expressed his confidence in the leadership of Brother Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam in America, who is leading the battle for the escape from bondage. The brother leader of the revolution urged blacks and red Indians to be a cohesive force whether Muslim or Christian. The brother leader of the revolution added that we will fight with the [words indistinct] imperialism, colonialism and racism to get rid of exploitation and oppression and that we have the right to freedom on Earth and under the Sun.

He pointed out that if blacks are not Americans neither are whites. Reagan is Irish and is not an American. Priority and preference are for the blacks and the red Indians.

He said that America's President should come from the ranks of red Indians or from the blacks. If they do not want you as American citizens then you must fight to establish your independent state and you have the right to do this. The red Indians must be your allies, but they must have their independent state. The leader pointed out the need to destroy this racist state, otherwise freedom will be destroyed, the nation of Islam will be destroyed, and the red Indian nation will be crushed.

The leader concluded his address by saying: We are with you. Do not worry, trust us; we are your brethren. Racism and imperialism are our common enemy. We shall fight together shoulder to shoulder. Final victory is near.

After the brother leader concluded his address, Brother Louis Farrakhan followed with a speech. He said: This address has made this day a historic one. This is the first time in which an African leader has spoken directly via satellite to the blacks' conference and it is being relayed live to about 60 countries.

Many thanks to the Brother Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The leader of the black Muslims, Louis Farrakhan had introduced brother leader of the revolution before Al-Qadhdhafi delivered his speech to the annual conference of black Americans held in the city of Chicago with a speech in which he said:

In a short time a freedom fighter comrade will talk to you, he is now standing 9,000 miles away [words indistinct]. He is Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi whom the world does not understood; not because he is difficult to understand but because of his aims and projects which are for the interests of struggling people and which have been deliberately presented to the world in a distorted manner.

Brother Louis Farrakan said in his speech that America itself is built on revolution. The American revolution against the British throne gave America its sovereignty and priceless freedom. America lived through a period of quasi-isolation before it opened up to the world and became a superpower.

Brother Farrakhan added: In my opinion America should stand beside the oppressed and the helpless people against oppressive and tyrannical forces. It has chosen, however, to be on the side of the big companies, the big banks, and the peoples' bloodsuckers.

In my humble assessement America has stood on the wrong side of history. But for God's kindness there are men and leaders who have devoted their lives for the struggle for freedom and liberation.

Brother Farrakhan stated that it is natural that the forces of oppression and exploitation should hate these strugglers; we are the oppressed and of course we struggle against oppression.

The leader of the black Muslims said in his speech in which he introduced the brother leader of the revolution: The Libyan people have been subjected to waves of colonialism for many years but the devotion of a young man of genius through a white revolution, i.e. the 1 September Revolution, has succeeded in liberating Libya.

He is a young man of futuristic vision and a struggler for the cause of freedom. He has put all his potential toward bolstering the revolutionary struggle for freedom in the world. a struggle that the American Administration should be part of. But it has chosen the other side and has tried to portray Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in a distorted manner.

We do not need the international press to introduce him to us. We are going to meet him, listen to him, and to judge him for ourselves.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Guinea-Bissau Minister

LD250006 Tripoli JANA in English 1655 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 4, February 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution received today the personal envoy of the president of the Republic of Guinea Bissau and minister of public health, Alexandre Nunes Correia, who handed him a letter from President Joao Bernardo Vieira.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Niger President's Message

LD250014 Tripoli JANA in English 1656 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 4, February 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution received today Allele Elhadji Habibou, personal envoy of the Niger president and minister of justice, who handed him a letter from President Seyni Kountche.

PFLP's Qubba'h Arrives in Tripoli 22 Feb

LD230655 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Taysir Qubba'h, member of the PFLP, arrived last night [22 Feb] in Tripoli for a visit of several days to the Jamahiriyah.

Received by Jallud

LD231517 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud received this morning Brother Taysir Qubba'h, member of the PFLP Political Bureau. He also received brothers 'Atallah al-Khatib and Abu Kamil, members of the PFLP Central Committee.

YAR's Al-'Amsi Heads Delegation to Libyan Congress

LD251302 Tripoli JANA in English 0816 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 5, February 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — 'Abd al-Salam Husayn al-'Amsi, assistant secretary of the Permanent Committee for the General People's Congress in the YAR is heading the delegation attending the proceedings of the ordinary session of the General People's Congress starting in Tripoli the forthcoming Tuesday.

MOROCCO

Jordanian Envoy Delivers Husayn Message to King

LD251559 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II this afternoon received at the Royal Palace in Marrakech Mr Marwan al-Qasim, head of His Majesty King Husayn's Royal Court, who was carrying a message from the Jordanian Monarch to His Majesty King Hassan II. The audience lasted for more than 2 hours.

The meeting was attended by Dr Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs, and by his majesty's advisers, Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Ber Ceda. After that the Jordanian envoy left Marrakech airport for Amman.

SUDAN

Peoples Armed Forces Communique on Routing Rebels

EA250643 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Excerpt] A communique issued by the official spokesman of the People's Armed Forces, Major General Babakr 'Abd al-Rahim, states that a force of outlaws which crossed the Ethiopian border attempted to (?renew) their attack on the Jokau garrison in Upper Nile region yesterday morning.

Our Armed Forces inflicted a considerable loss of life and captured large numbers of machineguns and quantities of ammunition during the course of the attacking forces' retreat to Ethiopian territory. They left behind their dead and wounded. Our brave forces [words indistinct] suffered no casualties by the grace of God.

Radio SPLA: Forces Raid Garrison; Policemen Defect

EA231651 (Clandestine) Radio of Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Reports from Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] correspondents in central Upper Nile war zone say a unit of Hadid [iron] Battalion, under the command of Captain (Michael Makol), yesterday made a successful raid and bombardment into Malwal garrison. In this raid SPLA forces inflicted heavy losses on the enemy personnel and material.

In another development 13 policemen and four game scouts under the command of Sergeant Major (Marko Tut), defected from Adok in Upper Nile Administrative Area and joined SPLA units in Bentiu. All the 17 came with their different automatic rifles. In this regard the commander in chief of SPLA, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, warmly congratulated and welcomed them into SPLA.

SPLA Forces Ambush 'Enemy' Soldiers

EA231723 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] According to our special correspondent accompanying Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] forces in Equatoria, SPLA forces, under the command of Major (Utur Igwo), made a successful ambush on the enemy forces at (Lobone) in (Owinyki-Bul) area. In the ambush, 10 enemy soldiers were slightly wounded in action. In a message to Radio SPLA, Maj (Utur Igwo) said the people of Equatoria are daily joining SPLA forces under its command in large numbers. He further went on to appeal to members of the organized forces who support the SPLA to wait for its arrival in Juba.

Garang Commends Chief of Akobo, Militia for Defection

LD231757 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The commander in chief of the SPLA, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, has sent a message of congratulations to the paramount chief of Akobo, Mr (Stephen Kunei Long), who and his militia defected and joined SPLA forces under the command of First Lieutenant Paul Garang Deng in the area on February 21st 1985.

The commander in chief commended the defection of the paramount chief, (Stephen Kunei Long) who comes from (Anywak), and said his defection is a proof that the movement is not a dinky organization as claimed by Numayri regime.

SPLA Radio: 'Several Thousand' Join SPLA Units

EA251939 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] According to a Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] radio correspondent currently accompanying SPLA forces in Equatoria, there has been a continuous influx of Equatoria citizens to join the SPLA units in the area. Several thousand have already reported to the SPLA forces within the last few days and others are on their way to the camps in Equatoria, the correspondent said.

Commenting on this, a spokesman for the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement], said: We have been confident that the citizens of Equatoria, like any other citizens in the Sudan, would never be detached from the popular revolutionary struggle. The revolution belongs to them and they should fight like any other revolutionary Sudanese to rid the exploited masses of Sudan from their plight.

SSU Leader To Visit Upper Nile Region for Talks

EA251947 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] According to news reports monitored here this morning, Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir, secretary general of the so-called Sudanese Socialist Union, the SSU, will shortly pay an official visit to Malakal, the capital of Upper Nile Administrative Area.

The report says that the visit is meant to hold talks on what the regime describes as national dialogue reconciliation and to consolidate the so-called internal front against SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement].

Commenting on this, Major Dr Yak Majer Deng, member of the SPLM, said: The SSU or the (?assemblies) of any other institution established by the regime are only wasting their time, because they have no powers in their hands, he asserted. All the powers are vested in Numayri's hands. (?Precisely) Numayri is the power in Sudan, Maj Dr Yak Majer Deng concluded.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Visits Spain, Meets Counterpart

For Madrid coverage of the visit to Spain by Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi, including his meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran, see the Spain section of the 26 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

WESTERN SAHARA

Ministry Communique Claims 398 Moroccans Dead

LD260818 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] A communique by the Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture stated that 398 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 435 were wounded by the fighters of the Saharan People's Army during 100 operations carried out within the framework of the Great Maghreb offensive.

The communique said that 24 offensive and 77 shelling operations in many areas of the SDAR occupied territories inflicted heavy losses on the invading Moroccan forces.

ETHIOPIA

Envoy Comments on Aid to Eritrea, Ports, Airlift

AU251445 [Editorial Report] Vienna *VOLKSSTIMME* in German on 24 February 1985 carries on page 3 a 1,200-word interview granted by Ethiopian FAO delegate Assefa Yilala to Vene Maier and Eva-Maria Hinterwirth "early in February in Rome." Yilala answers questions on the FAO conference for the rehabilitation of Ethiopian agriculture, on the drought in Ethiopia and its effects, on national efforts to combat hunger, and on international food aid.

Confining himself to general statements on the situation without giving any facts and figures, Yilala stresses that although Ethiopians find it hard to be forced to accept gifts, they cannot cope with the disaster on their own. He notes that "the capacity of the ports of Assab and Massaua has been essentially expanded" and that the "entire Ethiopian Air Force is being used for transporting the foodstuffs that are arriving."

Yilala also stresses the need for "defending the revolution," noting that "today, Ethiopia is surrounded by enemies," and denies reports that the Ethiopian Government is holding back any food aid for Eritrea. In this context, he says: "The port of Assab was expanded solely to ensure the supply to Eritrea and Tigray Provinces; 65 percent of the foodstuffs arriving at the Assab port go directly to Eritrea Province, the rest to Tigray." Blaming the "rebels" for the destruction of the roads and bridges in Eritrea, he says the government had to set up an airlift operation to ensure the food supply for Eritrea and adds: "In this operation it is being supported by Great Britain's Royal Air Force, by the FRG, and the GDR, and — very substantially so — by the USSR. Out of the total of 1,350 foreign pilots, as many as 1,150 are from the GDR and the Soviet Union alone."

SOMALIA

Siad Addresses New Council of Ministers on Duties

EA250606 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Excerpt] President of the SDR [Somali Democratic Republic], Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, this evening witnessed the swearing-in ceremony of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the new government, which was recently named by the SRSP Central Committee Political Committee.

In a speech he delivered on the occasion, Challe Siad said the ministers and deputy ministers of the new government are entrusted with the heavy responsibility of serving the interests of the Somali people and they should discharge this responsibility with justice, equality, and integrity. President of the SDR, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, exhorted the members of the new Council of Ministers to concentrate on discharging their heavy responsibilities in the development of the country and in promoting social progress by taking positive steps in the political, economic, and social spheres in order to realize the general aspirations of the Somali nation.

SRSP Central Committee Appoints New Party Officials

EA241615 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] The political committee of the Central Committee of the SRSP last night at a meeting appointed various party bureau chairmen, deputy chairmen, and the committees of the Central Committee of the SRSP and heads of various social organizations at the national level, whose appointments are on an acting basis.

The challayal who were appointed last night are:

Bureau of Organization and Mass Mobilization of the SRSP Central Committee:
- Challe Abd al-Razzak Mahmud Abu Bakar, chairman
- Challe Mohamed Jama Mohamed Hajikore, deputy chairman
- Challe Mohamed Harakow Mohamed, deputy chairman
- Challe Abdullahi Mohamed Shegow, deputy chairman

Bureau of Social Affairs of the SRSP Central Committee:
- Challe Abd al-Qadir Haji Mohamed, chairman
- Challe Amhed Sheikh Jama, deputy chairman
- Challe Mako Maalin Mohamed, deputy chairman

Bureau of Finance of the SRSP Central Committee:
- Challe Ahmed Hassan Musa, chairman
- Challe Abd al-Qadir Maow Umar, deputy chairman

Bureau of the Central Committee Affairs of the SRSP Central Committee:
- Challe Ahmed Ashkir Botan, chairman

Bureau of Economic Affairs of the SRSP Central Committee:
- Challe Dr Hussein Sheikh Abd al-Qadir Qasim, chairman
- Challe Abukar Sheikh Yusuf, deputy chairman

Bureau of Cooperative Movements of Somalia of the SRSP Central Committee:
- Challe Warsame Abdullahi Ali, chairman
- Challe Ali Mohamed Ahmed Ilkacaseh, deputy chairman
- Challe Nur Fiqi Uthman, deputy chairman

Bureau of General Services and Technology of the SRSP Central Committee:
- Challe Engineer Uthman Jama Ali, chairman
- Challe Halima Sheikh Mahmud, deputy chairman

Bureau of Officials and Personnel of the SRSP Central Committee:
- Challe Mohamed Ali Nur, chairman
- Challe Mohamed Ali Abdi, deputy chairman

Bureau of Foreign Affairs of the SRSP Central Committee:
- Challe Mohamed Ali Warsame, chairman
- Challe Maryan Yusuf Mahmud, deputy chairman.

The two former bureaus of ideology and propaganda and research have now been merged into:

Bureau of Research and Guidance of the SRSP Central Committee:
- Challe Yusuf Ibrahim Ali Aburas, chairman
- Challe Abdurrahman Hussein Abdi Beydani, deputy chairman

The committees of the Central Committee of the SRSP are:

Bureau of Inspection of the SRSP Central Committee:
Challe Abdi Warsame Issaq, chairman
Challe Mahmud Abdi Dunkal, deputy chairman
Challe Mohamed Daganeh Doreh, deputy chairman
Bureau of Central Investigation of the SRSP Central Committee:
Challe Farrah Waais Duleh, chairman
Challe Ali Yusuf Deynab, deputy chairman
Challe Mohamed Abdulle Bacadleh, deputy chairman
Bureau of Auditing of the SRSP Central Committee:
Challe Ali Hussein Abdullahi, chairman
Challe Mohamed Abdullahi Abdi, deputy chairman

The social organization at national levels will be headed on an acting basis by:

General Federation of Somali Trade Unions:
Challe Mohamed Farrah Isa Gashan, chairman
Challe Dr Mahmud Shireh Ismail, deputy chairman
Challe Hassan Sudi Hirsi, deputy chairman
Federation of Democratic Somali Women:
Challe Murayad Garad Ahmed, chairman
Challe Batulo Sheikh Ahmed, deputy chairman
Federation of the Somali Revolutionary Youth Union:
Challe Salad Uthman Robelh, chairman
Challe Uthman Awadh Ali, deputy chairman
Challe Adan Guled Shabell, deputy chairman

Romanian Delegation Arrives for 7-Day Visit

EA251758 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpt] A Romanian delegation led by Minister of Planning [title as heard] Mr Ion Ceausescu, arrived in Mogadishu today for a 7-day official visit to Somalia.

The minister told Somali national news agency reporters at the airport VIP lounge that their visit to Somalia would strengthen relations and cooperation between the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] and the Government of Romania.

Answering a question on cooperation between the SDR and the Socialist Republic of Romania in the economic, technical, and social sectors, Mr Ion Ceausescu said current bilateral cooperation was excellent and that he hoped his visit would serve to strengthen it even more. He added that the two sister states had implemented most of their original agreements. High-level visits aimed at promoting the interests of the two nations had since taken place.

Cooperation Talks Held

EA252202 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Official talks between SDR [Somali Democratic Republic] and Romanian officials began at the headquarters of the SDR Foreign Ministry here in Mogadishu this afternoon.

The talks between the two states centered on ways of expediting the implementation of earlier agreements signed between the SDR and the Socialist Republic of Romania. The agreements signed between the two countries provide for bilateral cooperation in livestock development, agriculture, fisheries, and trade. The SDR and Romanian Governments are cooperating and jointly financing six major projects in Somalia.

During the talks, the Romanian delegation put forward the Romanian Government's proposal to fund two more projects in Somalia.

The two sides appointed committees of experts to study further ways of strengthening the cooperation and ties between Somalia and Romania.

Addressing the meeting, the SDR foreign minister, Challe Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre, said that the good cooperation between Somalia and Romania exists by virtue of the correct leadership of the two heads of states, Challe Mohammed Siad Barre of Somalia and Challe Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania.

The Romanian minister of planning [title as heard], Mr Ion Ceausescu, also addressed the meeting. He thanked the SDR leaders and people for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and his delegation. The Romanian minister added that while in the SDR he will take the opportunity of touring some of the projects jointly funded by the two countries.

BURKINA

Sankara Receives Trade Union Leaders 24 Feb

AB250840 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Comrade Thomas Sankara, president of Burkina and chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR], yesterday morning received representatives of three trade unions: the National Conference of Burkina Workers, the National Trade Union Organization, and the Burkina Workers' Trade Union. The national situation was at the center of their discussions. Comrade Boniface Soundaye, who spoke on behalf of the group, pointed out that workers' problems were discussed in particular. On difficulties between the government and the trade unions, Comrade Soundaye merely said that there has never been a misunderstanding between the CNR and the trade unions. What may have given rise to such an interpretation was the lack of meetings between the two parties.

The representatives of these three trade unions were accompanied to the president's office by Comrade Fidele Toe, minister of labor, social security, and civil service. Comrade Toe added that the CNR chairman laid particular emphasis during the meeting on the role of the worker in the revolution and disclosed that an organ for discussions between the government and the trade unions would be set up to enable trade unions to participate in all levels of debate in a disciplined manner. This, Comrade Toe said, would provide trade unions with a new forum for discussion and enable them to participate more effectively in the making of government decisions.

GHANA

PNDC Regional Secretaries End Meeting at Wa

AB252150 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] regional secretaries, at the end of their 2-day conference at Wa, have suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on export trade. The secretaries pointed out that a good deal of illicit trade and other malpractices within the foreign trade sector continue to rob the country of vast amounts of foreign exchange. In a communique, they suggested the strengthening of the Foreign Trade Department of the Ministry of Trade to ensure proper programming and monitoring of the export trade for the success of the country's economic trade program. The communique expressed concern about what it termed the unsatisfactory operation of the National Plants and Equipment Rehabilitation Committee and called for its reorganization and decentralization on regional basis.

On the distribution of development projects, the secretaries suggested that a system should be worked out to grant contractors soft loans from commercial banks after their certificates have been signed by the regional secretary and the secretary for finance and economic planning.

They pledged that they would give all the necessary assistance to ensure the effective development of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution concept as the focal point of political education and mobilization.

STANDARD Wants 'Atmosphere of Intolerence' Cleared

AB250750 Accra Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Feb 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The *STANDARD* begins a series of editorial comments on the form of government which the country will have in future. The paper recalls what a member of the Provisional National Defense Council, Justice D.F. Annan, is quoted as saying toward the end of last year: that he is to coordinate views on this issue. The *STANDARD* already identifies a number of difficulties: First of all, the people do not know the terms of reference, whether there is some decree setting out exactly what is to be done; nor are the people aware of any invitation to the identifiable groups that still make the country for their views. [sentence as heard]

The paper would also like to hope that when the ground rules eventually come, the people will not be confined to some preconceived blueprint within which they will be expected to confine their proposals. An even more serious handicap to free debate, in the view of the paper, is the atmosphere itself. It says from the very onset of the revolution, Ghanaians were told how unwelcome will be views that were out of tune with the process. There is also the habit of state-owned newspapers expressing editorial dissent, often without ever printing news of the events that give rise to this because the government is embarrassed by the event.

The *STANDARD* insists that in order for any discussion to be frank and meaningful, the atmosphere of intolerance must be cleared. The paper expects the state-owned papers, for example, to publish the views of dissenting groups before opening their columns to criticize those views. It also expects an invitation to be extended to all identifiable groups, whether radical or revolutionary, to come out openly and express their views not only on the country's political future, but also on the present state of the nation.

Japan Aid to GBC; USSR Consular Office in Accra

AB221730 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Ghana Government today signed two different agreements with Japan and the Soviet Union at separate ceremonies in Accra. Under the first agreement, Ghana is to receive a grant of Y44 million, about 8.7 million cedis, from the Government of Japan for the purchase of essential spare parts and light equipment to improve the technical standard of GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] Television. Under the second agreement, the Soviet Union will maintain a separate consular office in Accra.

MALI

Sports Minister To Lead Delegation to PRC

AB251618 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The minister of sports, arts, and culture, Ahmed Mohamed Ag Hammani, received in audience this morning His Excellency Zhou Haiping, the PRC ambassador to Mali. During their discussions, the minister informed the PRC diplomat that the government has agreed that a Malian delegation should visit the PRC. This delegation will be headed by Ahmed Mohamed Ag Hammani.

NIGERIA

Idiagbon Comments on Economy, Other Issues

AB250910 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Interview with the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, on "Matters of the Moment" program by Mohamed Okerejo; place and date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] My regular guest on this program, the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, is here to throw more light on a number of [word indistinct] national issues which, I am sure, you are more than anxious to listen to. Chief of Staff, Sir, you are welcome to the program.

[Idiagbon] Thank you.

[Okerejo] First of all, I want to start on socioeconomic issues. Of recent, state governments have resorted to collecting levies for their various projects. While some of these levies are within reason, others are simply not commendable to reason. In some states, people have to pay as many as six different levies from earnings that are already impoverished by stringent government measures. While it can be conceded that state governments reserve the right to impose whatever levies they deem fit for their survival, the citizens also deserve protection from too much incursions into their pay packets. Don't you think that the Federal Military Government [FMG], as the superior government in the country, should do something to hold the state governments in check in their imposition of levies before we add the problem of a disenchanted population to our numerous problems?

[Idiagbon] Well, thank you. No government can provide all social services free of charge without commensurate contribution from its citizens. Traditionally, this form of contribution has always been in the form of taxes and levies in many parts of the world; however, with the oil boom, this country almost completely forgot about taxes and there was less commitment on the part of the citizens to government developmental efforts because they contributed little or nothing to government revenue. With the defunct civilian administration, the politicians also compounded the issue by abolishing some taxes [words indistinct] and without looking for other sources of generating revenue internally to complement their statutory allocations.

You are no doubt aware that by the time the military administration took over, all the states were heavily indebted. Salaries were not being paid in many states, and most of the essential services were grinding to a halt. In order to stop the imminent collapse of the economy and allow government to meet its obligations, (?we have made room) for states to look for other avenues of generating revenue. In furtherance of this objective, most of the abolished taxes were resuscitated and some forms of levies were introduced. It is not the intention of this administration to overstretch the pay packet or the limited income of the average Nigerian. But it is determined to ensure the contribution of every Nigerian in assisting the state governments in meeting their obligations to the generality of the people. The revenue so generated is used for the provision of social services for the common good of society.

[Okerejo] Now, still on the economy and related issues: During his visit to Benue State, the head of state declared that the economic belt-tightening will continue for up to 3 more years. Our listeners have reacted sharply to this. It could appear that they were already feeling that things were taking shape and therefore the days of hardships were coming to an end. So this statement really came as a shock to them. Can you give a fuller explanation for the likelihood of 3 more years of tight economic measures?

[Idiagbon] Well, I was not in Benue State with the head of state, but I also personally believe that the belt-tightening must continue for a few more years. It took the civilian administration over 4 years of reckless spending to bring the economy to such a perilous state. But we are now spending between 40 and 50 percent of our foreign exchange earnings on servicing debts, many of which were incurred for prestigious and unviable projects. The present administration has also curtailed public expenditure in order to reduce both foreign and internal debts and restore the confidence of foreign investors and creditors in our economy to develop the hitherto neglected agricultural sector and give priority to the importation of raw materials needed by the factories in order to revamp the battered national economy.

These are essential belt-tightening measures which will continue for some time. As you are aware, it takes longer to build than to destroy; hence, it will be expecting too much to hope that our economic woes will be over soon. We shall spend not less than 3.5 billion naira to service our foreign loans during the current financial year. The provisions for next year is about the same, if not more. But if we maintain the present policy that no foreign loans should be contracted for new projects, the requirement for servicing loans in 1987 should be about the same or slightly lower.

The implication of this is that since most of our industries are at present import-oriented, we are not in a position to fully meet their import requirements. Consequently, economic belt-tightening will continue for as long as we do not have sufficient foreign exchange and other resources needed to bring our industries to full production.

[Okerejo] In some quarters, there have been calls for special courts to try illegal aliens. The contention is that the conventional courts [word indistinct] the deportation process because court proceedings take long to reach immigration agents. Their belief is that the special courts will facilitate and hasten deportation processes because they will work only with the immigration agency. Can the FMG give this a thought?

[Idiagbon] You seem to object to the speed with which decrees are promulgated while at the same time you are advocating for military courts because of the speed with which cases are tried and disposed of. (?That means) that we believe in military decrees and swift administration of justice. As for illegal aliens, there is no pressing problem with them at the moment. When the aliens nearly constituted a major economic obstacle in the past, the problem was promptly dealt with. There is, therefore, no need to establish special courts simply to deal with the deportation of illegal aliens. The few ones that are here can be adequately dealt with by the courts.

[Okerejo] Before I really call off the day, I would like you to give the usual nightcap to this program by giving your last words to Nigerians.

[Idiagbon] Thank you. When I met recently with police chiefs in my office, I stressed the need for the Nigerian police force to urgently devise effective means of combating the waves of violent crimes, especially armed robbery, currently ravaging the nation. I also enjoined the police force to stop subjecting members of the public to undue delays at police stations; to desist from treating persons who report violent crimes as criminal suspects; and to find a way or obtain a way to defeat bad eggs in the force who indulge in the inimical practice of conniving and colluding with criminals. I am assured that the police force is now taking active measures to correct its lapses to ensure the safety of lives and properties and to protect the identity of informants, thus safeguarding them against possible dangers.

In spite of all these, however, there is no way the police can succeed without the active support and cooperation of all Nigerians. I therefore call on all media houses to educate our people on the need to cooperate fully with the police and by so doing assist the force to perform its functions more effectively. [Words indistinct] of antisocial elements live within the society, it is the hope of law-abiding and peace-loving citizens to expose them. Each community should therefore be vigilant and be quick to report all suspecious movements and stranger elements. In addition, all those wallowing in stolen wealth or living visibly above their means should be similarly reported. Each community should realize that in unity lies the strength. Armed robbery victims should, therefore, not be abandoned to their fate. Even where the robbers could not be (?centrally) attacked and overpowered, neighbors should find urgent means of reporting a robbery operation to the law-enforcement agencies while such operations are still in progress. It is only by unity of purpose and action that society will be able to protect itself from the nefarious activities of these antisocial elements in our midst, who certainly constitute an insignificant proportion of our population.

[Okerejo] Well, I think that chief of staff call is a double charge to pick up the [word indistinct] of nationalism, for how effective can our policemen be without information to work upon? We in the media have been called to duty, and as members of the Fourth Estate of the realm, I am sure we shall oblige. And on that note, I will say: Thank you very much, Chief of Staff, for coming again on this program.

[Idiagbon] Thank you.

[Okerejo] And listeners, good-bye until next month.

Idiagbon Opens Talks With Guinea-Bissau

AB251627 Lagos NAN in English 1543 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Lagos, Feb 25 (NAN) — The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Maj Gen Tunde Idiagbon, said in Lagos today that industrialized countries would like developing countries to remain begger nations dependent on what he called "the paliative of their aids and grants."

Speaking at opening session of bilateral talks between Nigeria and Guinea-Bissau at Dodan Barracks, Maj Gen Idiagbon remarked that that was why "our expectations and hopes for the removal of inherent inequalities between industrialized and developing countries have been frustrated by refusal of the industrial countries to implement the imperatives of the new international economic order." He said that it was, therefore, essential for developing countries to mobilize and manage their resources and coordinate their efforts so that they could be self-reliant. Maj Gen Idiagbon suggested that Nigeria and Guinea-Bissau should review all aspects of their bilateral relations and agree on how best they could be improved. He also suggested that both countries should harmonise their positions on major political and economic issues affecting the destiny of Africa and the Third World.

The vice president of Guinea-Bissau, Mr Paulo Correia, who is leading his country's team to the talks, said that he shared Maj Gen Idiagbon's opinions on the issues he had raised. He thanked the chief of staff and the people of Nigeria for the warm welcome they had received since their arrival, adding that coup that toppled former President Luis Cabral was as a result of the change in policy for which the people of Guinea-Bissau had made a lot of sacrifice.

Delegation Head Meets Buhari

AB251738 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, announced today that the Federal Government would translate into actions the outcome of bilateral talks between Nigeria and Guinea-Bissau. He stated this when he received the visiting vice president of Guinea-Bissau, Mr Paulo Correia, at Dodan Barracks. Mr Correia also delivered a message from President Aristides Pereira [name as heard] to Gen Buhari. Earlier today, at the reopening of bilateral talks between the two countries, Nigeria called for the review of all aspects of relations with Guinea-Bissau.

David-West 'Optimistic' About Oil Prospects in North

AB251315 Lagos NAN in English 1212 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Port Harcourt, Feb 25 (NAN) — The minister of petroleum and energy, Prof Tam David-West, said yesterday that his ministry was optimistic about oil discovery in commercial quantity in the northern parts of the country. He told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Port Harcourt that the Petroleum and Energy Ministry had adquate data of considerable hydrocarbon formations when it embarked on the venture in its regions of the Chad Basin. He said that Tuma 1 oil locations had started to show promising results but that like in many other oil explorations, the nation needed to exercise patience.

Prof David-West said he was happy that the oil industry was responding favorably to the Nigerianisation policy of the Federal Government, adding that the Kaduna refinery had almost achieved 100 percent Nigerianisation. The minister said that it was a challenge for the nation to train Nigerians for sensitive positions in the oil industry because "it would be meaningless and dangerous to replace a trained expatriate with a mediocre Nigerian in such positions".

He said that the merger of the Nigerian Petroleum Refining Corporation (NPRC) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) had been completed. He said that the NNPC was installing a multimillion-naira telecommunication system in four phases because it could not depend on the regular telecommunication services in the country, if it wanted to achieve the necessary efficiency.

Reports of 'Slaves' in Equatorial Guinea 'Exaggerated'

AB260850 Paris AFP in English 0412 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Lagos, Feb 26 (AFP) — Reports that 500 Nigerians on cocoa plantations in Equatorial Guinea were being treated like slaves and wanted to come home were greatly exaggerated, a reliable source said here Monday.

The national news agency, citing authoritative sources, had reported last Saturday that two navy ships with an air escort had gone to Equatorial Guinea to evacuate the labourers, who were said to have taken refuge in the Nigerian Embassy in Malabo after one of them was shot dead by local security agents. The source said he understood the workers had not asked to be repatriated and had returned to their plantations.

A source close to the Foreign Ministry confirmed that the navy vessels were off Malabo, but said they might well bring nobody back after all, as the original reason cited for sending them had faded away. Informed sources here said it appeared that the workers had tried to lynch the fellow Nigerian who had recruited them, because he had badly exploited them. They were said to have chased him into the embassy. They clashed with Equatorial Guinean police trying to keep order, and it was then that one of them was reportedly shot dead, the sources said.

Envoy Denies Reports

AB251528 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Lagos, Feb 25 (AFP) — The first secretary in Equatorial Guinea's Embassy here today denied reports that Nigerian nationals were working as slaves in his country's plantations. The diplomat, Estanislao Ela Mangue, said in an interview that there was no active recruitment of workers in Nigeria by Equatorial Guinean citizens. He laid the blame for any abuses of Nigerian workers in his country on local recruiters within Nigeria.

Friday the NIGERIAN NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) said authorities had sent two ships and five military planes to repatriate 500 Nigerians who had taken refuge in Nigeria's embassy in the Equatorial Guinean capital, Malabo. The agency said the Nigerians fled to the embassy after one of the workers was shot dead by local security agents.

It said the Nigerians had been recruited by a Nigerian named Etim and taken illegally to Equatorial Guinea as plantation workers. It quoted Nigerian Foreign Minister Ibrahim Gambari as saying the workers were treated as slaves.

Mr Mangue said there were no more than 200 Nigerians currently working in Equatorial Guinea and added that in 1976, under the dictatorial regime of Francisco Macias Nguema, nearly 4,000 Nigerian nationals working in the country had been sent home. Denying that there was any slavery in his country, the diplomat said the Nigerians reportedly taking refuge in the Malabo embassy must have returned to the country following the earlier repatriations.

"Laborers from Nigeria, Cameroon and Benin are welcome if they want to work in our country, but it is not we who invited them," he said, adding that authorities in Nigeria had made no mention to him of any problems concerning its nationals in Equatorial Guinea. "We know nothing, we learned of this through the press," said Mr Mangue, currently acting charge d'affaires here in the absence of the Equatorial Guinea ambassador who is due here tomorrow.

There has been no official confirmation of the reported operation launched to bring the 500 Nigerians home from Malabo, which NAN said was expected to start yesterday. But the government-owned *NEW NIGERIAN* daily, without citing any sources, today said the move had been held up.

DAILY TIMES on U.S. 'Intensification' of Arms Race

AB251255 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Feb 85

[From press review]

[Text] The *DAILY TIMES* analyzes the effects of the United States' strategic defense initiative, SDI, on the world peace. The paper dismisses the view of President Ronald Reagan of the United States that the SDI scheme is designed to enhance world peace. The *TIMES* argues that the production of the SDI is an intensification of the nuclear arms race.

SENEGAL

Diouf Receives Mobutu Envoy, Message 25 Feb

AB252008 Paris AFP in French 1316 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Dakar, 25 Feb (AFP) — Zairian State Commissioner for Foreign Affairs Mokolo wa Mpombo today handed a message from Zairian head of state Mobutu Sese Seko to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

Mr Mokolo, who arrived in Dakar yesterday evening, stated after the audience that his visit fell within the framework of Zaire's assertion of the African mission of its diplomacy and that it aims to strengthen Zaire-Senegal relations. Replying to a question, he said that the creation of a league of black African states called for by the Zairian president was not brought up at the audience. He indicated that the idea "is not meant to divide Africa" and that it "falls in the framework of the OAU."

Diouf Meets With Mauritanian Interior Minister

AB251130 Dakar PANA in French 0950 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Dakar, 24 Feb (APS-SEN/PANA) — Djibril Ould Abdallah, the Mauritanian minister of interior, arrived in Dakar Saturday afternoon and was soon received by President Abdou Diouf. He was bearer of a message from Lieutenant Colonel Maayouia Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Questioned on the aim of his visit, the Mauritanian envoy said that his mission falls within the framework of the "very close relations" between Dakar and Nouakchott and that he has come to brief the Senegalese head of state on the recent mission sent by Mauritania to Algeria, Morocco, and Libya. "I was briefed by President Abdou Diouf on his discussions with the Moroccan authorities on our relations with Morocco," Mr Ould Abdallah said.

In response to a question on the possible presence of opponents to Nouakchott's regime in Senegal, the Mauritanian minister of interior cited his Senegalese counterpart and stated: "There were no opponents, either from the inside or outside" to his country's regime. "The internal situation in Mauritania is very good. All is calm...there is only a sandstorm..." he said.

Djibril Ould Abdallah's audience (he was formerly known as Gabriel Cimper) took place in the presence of Ibrahima Wone and Ibrahima Fall, respectively ministers of interior and foreign affairs.

Opposition Leader Charges 'Inquisition' by Regime

AB230644 Paris AFP in English 0346 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Dakar, Feb 23 (AFP) — Senegalese opposition leader Abdoulaye Wade said Friday he intended to bring an action in the Supreme Court over an "inquisition" he said he was subjected to this week when he returned after nine months' voluntary absence abroad.

Mr Wade, secretary-general of the Democratic Party (PDS), said he was summoned to central police headquarters here last Tuesday to be interrogated about articles in some French papers critical of the situation in Senegal. He said he refused to reply.

Officials here reportedly suspect Mr Wade of being behind the articles. His PDS is the main opposition party, though it has only eight seats in the National Assembly compared with the ruling Socialist Party's 110.

ANGOLA

Party Cooperation Protocol Signed With Mongolia

MB260900 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The MPLA-Labor Party and the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] have signed a 2-year party cooperation protocol aimed at strengthening the ties of friendship binding them in the struggle for the creation of a new society. Signed during the visit to Angola by Sonomyn Lubsangombo, the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic, the agreement covers the [words indistinct] mass and social organizations.

In Luanda, Lubsangombo, who is also a candidate member of the MPRP Politburo, held talks with Roberto de Almeida, candidate member of the Political Bureau and the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee secretary for ideology.

During their talks, the two sides stressed the need to strengthen the ties binding the two parties and peoples, as well as the respective mass organizations, in the struggle against imperialism and colonialism and for peace, friendship, and the building of a new society.

The Angolan side expressed its satisfaction with the victories achieved by the Mongolian Government in the building of socialism, and informed the Mongolian side of the results of the first national party conference, stressing the need to strengthen party structures, [words indistinct] national defense, and creation of the bases of a socialist society. The Angolan side also informed the Mongolian side [words indistinct] sovereignty and territorial integrity, the social and economic developments [words indistinct].

The Angolan side also gave a detailed outlook for the total and unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from Angolan territory and the subsequent rapid implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 435/78 in light of the letter addressed to the UN secretary general by the Angolan head of state aimed at reaching an atmosphere of peace [words indistinct].

(?On the international) [words indistinct], the two sides expressed their concern over the prevailing situation in southern Africa and reiterated their total support for the [words indistinct] independence and apartheid under the leadership of the ANC.

The Mongolian side expressed its support for the peaceful initiatives of the Frontline States to make the southern region of the African continent a zone of peace and security.

KUP Cites UNITA Communiques on Operations

Activities Near Luanda

MB241250 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 1200 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 24 Feb (KUP) — The UNITA armed forces have reached important economic targets in Luanda.

The most relevant actions included the sabotage of the power line between Mabubas and Luanda city, planting of landmines on the stretches between Catete and Dondo and Maria Teresa and Barraca of the main tarred road between Dondo and Luanda, and attacks on MPLA posts and barracks in Luanda Province, notably in the Botomona area, near Kalomboka.

As a result of these actions, many MPLA soldiers and officers, as well as 10 Cubans, were killed. Large quantities of automatic weapons and various types of ammunition were captured, according to a 17 February 1985 UNITA communique.

Fighting in Bie Province

MB260940 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 0600 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 26 Feb (KUP) Following military operations in Bie Province on 13 February, UNITA forces totally annihilated the Cutato garrison of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola located to the north of Chinguar along the Benguela railroad, as well as all the railroad installations, such as a water pump, water tank, rails, telephone lines, and a number of vehicles. In the attack, 28 MPLA soldiers were killed and 7 captured, including radio-transmission Chief Operator Gaspar Manuel Panguila.

A number of other operations have been carried out in the province by UNITA forces against MPLA battalions supported by Cubans near Chitembo, southwest of Mumbue, in the area of Chiombo to the north of Andulo, and at Sachondi, to the north of Katabola, in which 68 enemy elements were killed and a number of others wounded, including 5 Cubans. According to the communique, a large quantity of war materiel, including radio receivers, weapons, military uniforms, and equipment, was also captured.

COMOROS

President Receives Credentials of New Envoys

AB231452 Paris AFP in French 1058 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Moroni, 23 Feb (AFP) — Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane, the Comoran head of state, has received the letters of credence from three new ambassadors accredited to the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros on Friday. They are Mr Dor Irwin from Australia, Mr Christian de Saint-Hubert from Belgium, and Mr Mamadou Ba Bangoura from Guinea.

MAURITIUS

Diplomatic Ties Established With Comoros

AB251613 Paris AFP in English 1448 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Moroni, Feb 25 (AFP) — Mauritius and the Islamic Republic of Comoros have agreed to establish diplomatic relations, it was announced here today. A joint communique issued simultaneously here and in the Comoran capital of Port Louis said the two Indian Ocean states had decided to develop official ties and exchange ambassadors in the interests of promoting friendship and bilateral cooperation.

MOZAMBIQUE

Defense Minister Congratulates USSR Counterpart

MB231230 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Army General Alberto Chipande, minister of national defense, has congratulated the Soviet Army and Navy on their 67th anniversary in a message addressed to Marshal Sokolov, minister of defense of the USSR. The message says that the Soviet Army and Navy are the guarantee of the policy of peace pursued by the Soviet people and mankind as a whole. In his message, Minister of Defense Alberto Chipande expresses the belief that the good relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the Armies of the two countries will be strengthened through the ideals of peace and progress.

FPLM Chief Attends USSR Armed Forces Ceremony

MB260926 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] A function was held in Maputo on Friday night on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, which was marked in the USSR on 23 February. Colonel General Sebastiao Mabote, chief of general staff of the FPLM, represented the Mozambican Government at the ceremony. On the occasion the Soviet military attache spoke of the process that led to the creation of the USSR Armed Forces.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Representative Comments on Peace Efforts

LD251848 Algiers APS in English 1545 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Algiers, 25-2-85 (APS) — In an interview to the daily *AL-SHA'B* Mr N'dadi, the representative of the South-West AfricanPeople's Organization (SWAPO) to Algiers declared that "the Pretoria regime is pursuing its repressive policy against the Namibia people, using the same ruthless methods it uses against the South African citizens especially after the failure of peace negotiations owing to the stubborness of Pretoria and the complicity of the US administration". Asked on how successful have been the efforts made by the UN and other countries for a peaceful settlement of the Namibian issue, SWAPO's representative said that all efforts fell through because of Pretoria's attitude and the policy of constructive commitment followed by the USA in the region. In spite of the visit of the US deputy secretary of state to African affairs Chester Crocker to Pretoria, a solution of the Namibian issue is not seriously sought, Mr N'dadi added.

Nonetheless, Mr N'dadi said, SWAPO is ready to start negotiations for the implementation of the UN resolution 435. Asked whether the accords signed by the neighboring countries with the Pretoria regime had consequences on the Namibian people's armed struggle the SWAPO's representative pointed out that the South African regime has not abided by the accord it signed with Angola and Mozambique but that the accords had effects on the struggle in South Africa in general.

To the question whether there is a coordination between the African National Congress (ANC) fight and that of SWAPO Mr. N'dadi declared that both organizations are fighting for the elimination of racist segregation and against the same enemy and that accordingly a coordination covering all fields does exist between SWAPO and the ANC.

To a last question on the material and moral support provided by the African countries to SWAPO, Mr N'dadi declared that the aid supplied by several African states to SWAPO is highly appreciated particularly that of Algeria moreover he said SWAPO receives political and material support from the OAU. Namibian freedomfighters will carry on their struggle with resolve and thanks to the multifaceted support of peace and freedom loving peoples. We will continue our fight to wrangle out our independence and implement what is provided for in resolution 435 which clearly defines the modalities of the accession of Namibia to indepedence furthermore we refuse any linkage between Namibia's independence and other matters alien to it, he concluded.

SOUTH AFRICA

Le Grange Says UDF Activities Being Monitored

MB261429 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange says the United Democratic Front's [UDF] activities are being monitored all the time and that there are certain bodies and individuals involved in the Front whose actions will not be tolerated much longer.

Speaking at the Rand Afrikaans University, Mr Le Grange said the arrests of UDF members last week should not be seen as an all-out action against the organization as such because investigations into the activities of the detainees have started years before the founding of the UDF. He said the action has been taken against persons who have been involved in the security situation in the country for 20 years or longer.

SAPA Says Envoy to UK Summoned on UDF Arrests

MB251057 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1046 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] London, Feb 25, SAPA — The British Foreign Office said today the South African ambassador to London, Dr Denis Worrall, has been called to a meeting later today to discuss the arrest of UDF leaders. He will meet Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Office undersecretary responsible for Southern African affairs.

A Foreign Office spokesman, explaining the government's position, recalled that last September the 10 European Community governments issued a statement expressing concern about detention without trial, and arrests.

"This led to representations to the South African Government. Mr Rifkind is calling in the South African ambassador to take this matter further," he said. "As far as those who have been arrested and charged, it is not our practice to intervene, but these arrests are difficult to reconcile with Mr (PW) Botha's commitment to a greater dialogue with the black community."

At the same time the Foreign Office issued a statement describing as "a significant step forward" the announcement in South Africa that blacks were to be allowed permanent residence in the Cape flats area.

"It ends the uncertainty of black people living there and confirms that there will be improved facilities for them in their existing communities. It is to be hoped that there will also be agreement between the South African Government and the people of Crossroads, where the tragic events of recent days have underlined the need to find a solution acceptable to those living in the area," it said.

CITIZEN Criticizes U.S. Disinvestment Bill

MB260620 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 22 Feb 85 p 6

[Editorial: "Go To Hell"]

[Text] We've heard of some crazy ideas of how to force South Africa to do America's bidding, but the Bill introduced in the American House of Representatives by Mr Walter Fauntroy, the District of Columbia representative, tops them all.

The Bill envisages initial sanctions that would include barring bank loans to the South African Government, halting the sale of Krugerrands, prohibiting coal and uranium imports, barring new U.S. investments and ending the export of nuclear and computer technology.

If South Africa did not make radical changes within 18 months — granting full political participation to all through a one person, one vote system, freeing all political prisoners and implementing fair labour practices — the sanctions would be tightened.

Landing rights would be denied and South Africa would be barred from having honorary consuls in America.

If the conditions were not met after three years, diplomatic relations would be cut and all U.S. investment in the Republic prohibited.

The Bill also provides for American sanction against foreign firms that move into South African markets vacated by U.S. companies.

These measures are so patently ridiculous that one could hardly believe that Congress would ever countenance them.

But if it did, then it would not only grievously harm the cause of reform in South Africa, it would not only deny Blacks, in particular, the chance of jobs and the better conditions which American companies provide and encourage, but it would destroy America's own interests in this part of the world.

The breaking off of relations with South Africa could deprive the U.S. not only of South Africa's strategic minerals and assistance and co-operation as an ally in time of war, but it would end all chance of America influencing developments in South Africa.

We can tell Mr Fauntroy in three words what our response is to his outrageous demands and threats to a sovereign, free and honourable country: Go to hell.

SWAZILAND

R.F. Botha To Officially Open Trade Mission

Comments on Arrival

MB251936 Mbabane Television Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, arrived at Matsapa Airport this afternoon for a short visit to the Kingdom during which he will officiate at a function launching the South African Trade Mission in Swaziland tonight. On arrival at Matsapa, Mr Botha was met by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, and other officials from the ministry. Mr Botha, who is accompanied by two other officials, was also received by the South African trade representative in Swaziland, Mr Sterban.

He told local reporters that besides opening the mission, he hoped to hold discussions with local officials on matters of mutual interest. He said the opening of the mission was the result of initiatives by the late King Sobhuza II. Tonight, Mr Botha will address a gathering at the Royal Swazi Sun Convention Center, where he will officially launch the trade mission.

[Begin Botha recording] The main purpose of my visit to the Kingdom of Swaziland is to attend to an official function today which will mark the opening of a trade mission in this country in terms of the agreement between the two governments. We of course have trade relations in other countries as well, and to the South African Government this was natural, logical, and inevitable step, I believe, for our Swazi friends as well, to put into practice what is happening in effect in reality everyday. We are

bound together in southern Africa irrespective of political difference, irrespective of differences in the political systems that are in operation in the various countries. We are bound together economically, as far as medical services are concerned, road transport, communications, civil aviation, industrial development, job provision, food production, agricultural development and production, housing, all of these important factors [word indistict] tie us together.

So it is for the leaders, therefore, to decide whether they recognize these common bonds, the common bases on which we must build a future for all the children of southern Africa. And the Swazi Government has proved that it does not hesitate to accept reality in the interests of the Swazi people first and foremost.

I have, of course, a long-standing relationship with this government and with the late king. He was a very dear friend of mine, and I believe that I share the honor of being called his favorite. And I believe today would have been a great day. I know that he very much wanted such a mission to be established and on a day like this we will think very much of him after what he has done in the foundations that he has laid. [sentence as heard] There were realistic and mutually beneficial relations for the two governments.

There are also other matters which we will discuss. We are in constant touch with each other; we regularly meet, these two governments, as well as we meet with other governments in Africa, but in particular with Swaziland. We have common problems. We have been hard hit by recent floods, and we are all suffering still from the results of the drought. There are questions like the development of transport systems, and in general quite a number of questions that constantly need to be discussed. Between me and my colleague in Swaziland, a telephone call or a letter can be no substitute for personal discussion, particularly in southern Africa. Thank you very much for the interest taken and for meeting us at the airport. [end recording]

Mission Opened

MB251917 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says the opening of South Africa's first trade mission in Swaziland is another step toward the promotion of peace, stability, and progress in southern Africa.

Opening the mission offices in Mbabane, Mr Botha said joint projects in fields such as transport, medical services, and agriculture could now be expanded.

Swaziland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Mhambi Mnisi said at the opening that the government and people of Swaziland believe that the establishment of trade missions could lead to closer ties between the two countries.

Mr Botha and Mr Mnisi met for talks before the opening ceremony.

Bhekimpi Advised 'Police Might Be Dangerous'

MB251734 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, has been advised that he should rule the police force from a close distance as police might be dangerous. This advice came from Mr O.Z. Dlamini, an MP, during the debate on allocation of funds to the Department of Police today. Mr Dlamini asked if the prime minister was close to the Department of Police because police might be dangerous if they are ruled from a distance. He said his claim could be proved by the fact that the former commissioner of police is in prison.

Mr Msunduzeni Dlamini expressed concern over the absence of a special insurance for the police because they are likely to die while performing their duties. He then asked whether reports that 15 members of the ANC reported to have disappered from the police station were handed over to South Africa as reported. [sentence as heard] If it was true that they had disappeared, he asked what happened to them. He went on to inquire whether there were police officers using vehicles with South African registration numbers and if that was the case, why was it so.

MP Ephraim Magagula expressed concern over [word indistinct] cases he said simply became unheaded for [as heard]. He named the cases as one involving a certain individual reportedly accused of selling travel documents and the developments on the incident in which regiments died in horror accidents which took place last year.

Other MP's suggested that the prime minister should increase the number of police force together with their vehicles, saying the under traffic police force were seen to be grappling with the transport problem. [sentence as heard]